

Schools banning screen time; world record redhead-gathering; England's stinky poo zoo; and the world's most expensive wave.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Monday September 1 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Schools banning screen time; world record redhead-gathering; England's stinky poo zoo; and the world's most expensive wave.

THE LOWDOWN

Do you use a screen in your classroom? Maybe you have ipads and laptops that you use to do your school work? Maybe you're a pen and paper classroom?

The benefits of both are currently the subject of debate - which is a fancy word for a polite, respectful argument - as schools try to balance exposure to tech with the best techniques for learning.

An international report from three years ago found that Australian school students were among the world's biggest users of technology in the classroom - spending up to four hours a day on screens. The same study found that almost 40% of kids were likely to be distracted by digital devices in lessons .. that darned internet - there are just so many links to click on ... rabbit holes to go down ...

And a recent study from Australia's own Macquarie University found too much time on screens at school could lead to smartphone addiction. And addiction to anything ain't great. Plus, there's been a decline in handwriting skills as more and more kids complete school work on their screens. And spelling has suffered - because ... auto-correct.

It's why more and more schools across the country are introducing laptop-free mornings, or making kids use textbooks to do research and pen and paper to take notes. Old skool. Some schools have even banned screens altogether.

Many principals say it's about striking a balance ... between getting kids used to the technology they will use in everyday life - and the many advantages that come with it - with making sure little brains are being enriched in the most effective way possible.

Stay focused and learn lots this week, kiddos ..

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops ... and today we've landed in Holland - also known as The Netherlands - where a festival of red heads has taken place.

Ginger-haired folk from all over the world have descended on the Dutch town of Tilburg to celebrate being strawberry blonde.

More than three thousand attendees from some 80 countries were expected at the festival - which last year broke the Guinness Record for the number of redheads in a single group photo 1672 in case you're wondering ...

There will be workshops on hair care, and make-up and skin care - including sessions dedicated especially to the unique sunscreen requirements of the ginger-hued. I wonder if its too late to book a plane ticket and join them?

The organisers say it's a celebration of the beauty and uniqueness of those lucky enough to have a carrot top .. and as an ageing ginger myself, I say hallelujah to that.

And on the subject of Guinness World Records - make sure you tune in tomorrow for on this very channel for our Squiz Kids Shortcut on Guinness World Records ... and find out some of the kookiest records ever set - and why a bet on which bird flies fastest was the origins of this best selling book.

WEIRD SCIENCE

We're always marvelling in this podcast at the amazing things scientists discover and what a fascinating job it would be to be a scientist ... but here's one sort of scientific research I'm happy to leave to the experts.

A zoo in Chester, in the United Kingdom, is helping to conserve the endangered black rhino by pulling apart its poo.

Yep - rhino poo.

Now - given their diet - which is plants and vegetation - rhino poo is not all that bad. Great big balls of chewed up grass and tree branches. Researchers say it doesn't even smell that bad.

You can tell a lot about an animal and its health by what's in its poo. Which is why Chester Zoo has developed a reputation across the whole of Europe as being the Poo Zoo .. and conservationists from right across the Continent send poo samples there to be tested.

Gosh - I'm not sure I'd like to be in charge of opening the mail at Chester Zoo. Poo-eee.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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It's the first day of spring (CHEER) and that means it won't be long before we're all heading to the beach for summer ..

When you do get there, be sure to take a moment to appreciate how amazing Aussie beaches are - and how lucky we are to be able to ride waves for free.

And that's because in Abu Dhabi - in the United Arab Emirates - it costs \$230 a pop to ride a wave in the city's man-made mega wave pool.

Yep - \$230 to ride a wave.

Mind you - it's not just any wave. This is as close to a perfect wave as its possible to get .. developed by scientists who have created a special shaped, massive basin - almost 700 metres long - filled with salt water and a special underwater mechanism, shaped like a wing, that sweeps across the bottom of the basin to create the perfect tube.

I think i'll settle for getting dumped for free at the beach this summer, just the same.

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. In which country has a gathering of glorious ginger haired folk taken place this weekend?
2. What species of rhino are the poo-zoo experts in England helping to save? Black or white?

3. How much are surfers paying per wave to ride the near perfect tubes of Abu Dhabi?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, September 1 ... today is the first day of Spring, birthday of film and TV star Zendaya AND Ginger Cat Appreciation Day .. it's all about the ginger-hue today

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow Jett from Forest Lake, Kavin and Chase from Oran Park, Everest from Clifton Hill, Ella from Albury, Finn from Gooong, Anaya from Kellyville, Kayden from Wentworth Point, Mal from Coolamon, Tsubaki (pron T-Soo-Bar-Key) from Indooroopilly, Jacob from Carseldine, Adaline from Mount Peter, Lucy from the Gold Coast, Matilda from Naremburn, Marcus from Lindfield, Elliot from Camp Hill and Avalon from Louth Park.

Belated shoutouts go to... Jamos, Brax, Barnes and Aria all from Kallangur, Mehnaaz (pronounced Meh-Nars) and Pehal from Oakenham and Arwwen from Lucas

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 6A at Kallangur State School and happy birthday to Mrs McIver, the year 2 Wombats with Mrs Woolcock at Marian Catholic School in Townsville and class B4 with Mrs Chidlow and Mrs Wallace at Excelsior Primary School in Canning Vale.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Holland - Netherlands
2. Black
3. \$230

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after a classroom shout out- drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - We'll be back again tomorrow with our special Squiz Kids Shortcut on Guinness World Records .. it's a good-un - make sure you tune in.

In the meantime ... get out there and have a most excellent day ... over and out.