

Roblox warning for Aussie kids; England's dinosaur super-highway; Instagram's new rules for teens; and Australia votes for its favourite bird.

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 Thursday, October 16 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Roblox warning for Aussie kids; England's dinosaur super-highway; Instagram's new rules for teens; and Australia votes for its favourite bird.

That's what's making news, kids' style ...

THE LOWDOWN

Hands up if you're a Roblox fan? Yeah - I thought as much.

Did you know that Roblox has over 100 million daily users - and some 40 percent of those users are under the age of 13.

And Australia is the second largest market for Roblox in the world, after the United States.

Which is absolutely crazy, when you think about it.

Did you also know that Roblox is the game most often blocked by Australian parents.

Because like it or not - our job as parents is to make sure you are safe and spending your free time in the best way possible.

This week there were warnings from experts that kids could sometimes come across material that was inappropriate while on Roblox, or meet other online users pretending to be much younger than they really are. We're talking stranger danger, friends. And how important it is to always talk to an adult if you come across something or someone that feels a bit wrong.

New rules are about to be introduced on Roblox restricting kids under 17 from the communication features of the platform - which is to say, the ability to chat online. And there's a possibility that Roblox will still be included in the upcoming teen social media ban - preventing kids under 16 from using it all.

Watch this space ...

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 England - where a dinosaur superhighway has been uncovered.

Palaeontologists - who are people who study fossils for a living - are doing cartwheels since the discovery of a trail of massive dinosaur footprints, believed to be over 160 million years old, and stretching out over 200 metres.

It's believed to be the longest trail of dino footprints ever discovered.

From the size of the footprints left behind, scientists reckon they belong to a bunch of Cetiosauruses - huge plant-eating dinosaurs about the size of a double decker bus.

The footprints were created as the massive creatures trudged through mud - which then got covered in millions of years of sediment and rock - until a controlled explosion in a quarry brought them back to the surface. Amazing ..

I've stuck a link to video of the dino superhighway in today's episode notes.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

The countdown is on people ... which bird is going to take out this year's Australian Bird Of The Year competition?

Will it be the tawny frogmouth? Will it be the kookaburra? The willie wagtail? Little penguin? Or my personal favourite, the Gang Gang cockatoo?

All will be revealed today just after lunch time after the more than quarter of a million votes are counted and the winner revealed by The Guardian newspaper - which stages the comp.

Previous winners have included the the Australian magpie, the black-throated finch and the superb fairy-wren.

This year's winning bird will be revealed on The Guardian website after 12.30pm Eastern time - and yes: I've stuck a link to the competition in today's episode notes in case you want to log in and see which feathered friend has flown to the top of the ladder this year.

Go Gang Gang! You've got this!

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and today his nose is twitching after the social media platform Instagram yesterday announced it would be restricting the content that kids under 18 could see on its platform.

So - you might have heard about the government's teen social media ban. It's essentially a new law that will mean kids under 16 are not allowed to be on social media platforms like Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.

Instagram are getting ahead of the ban by announcing yesterday that all users under 18 will only be able to access a special Teen feed - preventing them from seeing lots of stuff that young brains like yours are not ready to see.

And while all kids under 16 will soon have to provide proof of age to access social media - attention is now turning to how parents and teachers should be educating kids about how to tell what's real and what's not on the internet.

Because even with a social media ban - fake news, misinformation and disinformation will continue to flourish online - and kids need to know how to spot it when they come across it.

Which is absolutely why Newshounds - our very own, totally free digital literacy resource for primary school kids, teaching them to STOP THINK and CHECK is a must for every Aussie classroom. Check it out at squizkids.com.au - and join the more than 5,000 other Aussie classrooms helping Squiz-E become the world's first internet detective dog ...

Q+A CALL OUT

How would you like to hear your name - or the name of your class - read out in Parliament House in Canberra?

Then you need to get involved quicksticks in our upcoming Q+A with House Speaker, Milton Dick.

He's the bloke that sits in the big chair in the middle of shouty politicians - trying to keep the place in order. And he needs Aussie kids' help coming up with clever things to say - or make our Federal politicians do - to behave when they're in the chamber.

Maybe it's something your parents say to make you remember your manners. Or maybe it's a technique your teacher uses to bring calm and quiet to a noisy classroom -

Send your suggestions before the end of the month to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au - and Milton will choose the best ten or so in an upcoming podcast and use them during an upcoming sitting of Parliament.

Because it's a kids' world too ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name given to scientists who study fossils for a living?
2. Experts have issued a warning to kids to be careful while playing which popular online game?
3. Which bird am I hoping will win this year's Australian Bird Of The Year competition?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, October 16 ... today is World Bread Day ... celebrating the importance of the humble loaf as a food source that's eaten around the world ... so be sure to give that soggy sandwich in your lunch box today a little bit of extra love ...

Today's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Harvey from Lindfield, Alon from Chatswood, Grace from Adelaide, Luca from Geelong, Matilda from Gulfview Heights and Morgan from Pakenham

And we are still catching up on all of the holiday shoutouts because lots of you celebrated a birthday over the recent school holidays...

Belated birthday wishes go to... Heidi from Springvale, Jacob from Ashmont, James from Exeter, Amal from Oran Park, Ava S from Nundah, Ella from South Morang, Keith from Eglington, Matthew from Wentworth Point, Sage and Leilani from the Gold Coast, Margeaux from West Albury, Xinyi from Indooroopilly, Toby from Yuggera Country, Jetta from Goornong, Cameron from Vermont South, Alexander from Pitt Town and Annabel from Victoria.

Classroom shoutouts will resume next week. But in the meantime - a special shout out to a new Squiz Kids listener, Ginger from Toowoomba ... and to her mum Sian too.

Lovely to have you on board ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Paleontologists
2. Roblox
3. Gang Gang cockatoo

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

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