

## **Rage Bait takes the crown; kids comment on social media ban; Trinity Library transforms; and Dodgeball til you drop.**

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

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Thursday, December 4 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Rage Bait takes the crown; kids comment on social media ban; Trinity Library transforms; and Dodgeball til you drop.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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What if I told you that schools were banning birthday cakes, starting next week?

Or that Minecraft servers were shutting down FOREVER?

Or even that your favourite footy team had been kicked out of the comp overnight?

Totally untrue... but did your tummy do a little flip? Did you feel a spark of "Wait... WHAT?!"

If so, you've just been hit with something called rage bait. And it's just been crowned the Oxford University Press Word of the Year.

Rage bait is any online post designed to make people angry or upset, because anger gets clicks. And comments. And arguments. And that means more engagement...which is what social media platforms love.

Oxford's language experts choose a Word of the Year to capture what the world's talking about. This year, more than 30,000 people voted, and the experts picked "rage bait" because it exploded in use during 2025, thanks to big conversations about online safety, misinformation, and how tech can manipulate our emotions.

Other frontrunners included aura farming — when someone carefully curates a super-cool online vibe — and biohack, which is all about using lifestyle tweaks or tech to try to improve your body or brain

Which just goes to show... the words we use don't just describe the world — they help tell the story of it.

## ***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops... and today we've landed in Dublin, Ireland — where one of the world's most famous libraries is having a massive clearout.

Warning...I'm going full Library Geek on you — proudly — because what is IMO the world's most fabulous library - Trinity College Dublin's Old Library - is about to close for a gigantic restoration. And when I say gigantic... I mean hundreds of thousands of books being carefully moved, cleaned, tagged, and tucked away while the 300-year-old building gets a makeover.

For the first time since the 1700s, the famous Long Room, with its dark oak shelves, arched wooden ceiling and rows of ancient books, is almost empty. Staff wearing gloves and dust masks have already packed up nearly 200,000 books, gently vacuuming, measuring, and tagging them so they can be stored safely in climate-controlled rooms. Staff say that with the weight of the books removed, the 300-year-old building physically shifted - floorboards creaked, timber joints eased, and tiny nails rose slightly from the boards.

Some books are older than the library itself, including the Book of Kells - one of Ireland's greatest treasures, a 1,200-year-old handwritten and hand-painted copy of the Christian Gospels; a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio; and even the first book ever printed in the Irish language.

The best bit? They're digitising the whole collection, so anyone, anywhere in the world can explore it online.

## ***SPORT TIME***

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If I told you we were all heading outside for a game of dodgeball, would you be out of your seat in about three seconds? Okay... but what if I told you we were going to play for two whole days and nights, non-stop? Still keen?

That's exactly what 24 dodgeball players from across the United Kingdom have just done at The Dodgeball Centre in Hartlepool, England. The athletes, from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, played from 9am Saturday until 9am Monday, aiming to break the Guinness World Record for the longest-ever dodgeball match and raise money for charity while they were at it.

The previous record was just over 41 hours, set back in 2012. This team smashed past it shortly after 2 am Monday and kept going until they hit the full 48 hours.

Players were allowed short breaks and quick naps, but otherwise, it was dodge, duck, dip, and dive the whole way through. The marathon match was filmed, livestreamed and watched by official witnesses, and now Guinness is reviewing all the evidence before confirming the new world record.

## **NEWSHOUNDS**

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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 because Australia's kids have spoken — loudly — about the upcoming social media ban.

Our mates at Behind the News surveyed more than 17,000 Australians aged 9 to 15. Well... mostly 9 to 15. Squiz-E did notice about 190 people claiming to be 67 years old.

Anyhoo Squiz-E's floppy ears perked right up. Almost 80% of respondents said they use social media, and most said they don't plan to stop — even when the ban kicks in on December 10. Only 9% thought the ban was a good idea, and just 6% believed it would work.

Kids shared all kinds of opinions — from worries about staying connected with friends, to mental health concerns, to worries about privacy and safety. But one comment really stopped Squiz-E in his tracks.

One 10-year-old wrote: "They shouldn't be banning us. They should be teaching us."

Whilst a ban is coming, learning how to spot dodgy posts, question what you see, and stay safe online is still the most powerful tool of all.

Teachers, with just a couple of weeks left in the school year (and your classes having watched Home Alone for the 10 billionth time...), why not give your students what

they're asking for? Run Newshounds! It's our nine-part media-literacy podcast with teacher guides and student workbooks. Easy, fun, and the perfect end-of-year plug-and-play lesson.

## ***XMAS PROMO***

Oh my days...21 sleeps to Christmas... and here at Squiz Kids HQ, our ears are peeled for hoof steps, because the Big Bloke in Red could land on our rooftop any day now, and we need to be ready, because he's agreed to take the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat again this year! But... he's super busy, so we need your Santa questions by tomorrow.

Hop on our website and record your question directly or email your questions to [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto:squizkids@thesquiz.com.au).

And while we're waiting for the sleigh to touch down... has one of Santa's Scout Elves arrived at your place? Remember, they're watching, they're reporting back to Santa, and wow... they are getting up to some crazy capers this year. We've got your best Elf pics up on social media, get an adult to take a look on Instagram..And make sure to send us yours, and we'll post it.

A huge shoutout to Zachariah - to Xavier, Noah and Matilda, - Freddie, - Ishan and Mahi - to Alexandra and her Elf Trixie - to Mila and Cooper whose Elf took what can only be described as a terrifying ride on a ceiling fan, and to Asher, Xanthe, Mattisse and Oakley, Mrs Smith and everyone at Gladstone Public School... and guys we hope your elf was ok after travelling to school on the car aerial yesterday!

And yes.. there's a LEGO prize pack for the wackiest Elf hiding spot.

"...and for all the LEGO lovers out there (yeah, I see you!), you can help share the superpower of play with kids who need it most. All you have to do is build a heart out of LEGO bricks and share it with the hashtag #BuildToGive or pop into one of their stores. Each heart means LEGO will gift a set to a child in need these holidays. You'll find all the info in the episode notes."

## ***THE S'QUIZ***

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

1. What is the Oxford University Press Word of the Year?
2. What is the name of the book... one of Ireland's greatest treasures, a 1,200-year-old handwritten and hand-painted copy of the Christian Gospels... usually housed in the Trinity College Library?
3. How many hours did Dodgeball players in the UK play for to set a new world record?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Thursday, December 4... The second test match in The Ashes Men's Cricket series (that's the famous competition where Australia play England) starts today in Brisbane.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...

Olivia from Forest Lake, Alice from Fig Tree Pocket, Mikaia from Paraburdoo, Zac and Ella from West Albury, Carina from Lugarno, Noah from Mount Crosby, Kayla from Illawong and Chloe from Riverview.

Belated shoutouts go to...

Classroom shoutouts go to... Classes 4B and 4G with Ms Payne at St Thomas More Catholic Parish Primary School in Ruse, class 5A with Miss Foster at Ascot State School, class 4S with Miss Bartlett at St Clement of Rome Primary School in Bulleen and lastly to Mrs Smith and the students at Gladstone Public School.

*And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over the Christmas break, send us your birthday shout-out by Friday December 12, and we'll make sure to include you in the weekly Quizzes that will be going out each Friday of the school hols.*

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Rage Bait
2. The Book of Kells (K-E-L-L-S)
3. 48

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](mailto: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 the Kids vs Adults Weekly News S'Quiz...

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