

**World watches as ban kicks in; Rwanda's dancing gorilla; Squiz-E doubles down;
and the world's longest dog tongue.**

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 11 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... World watches as ban kicks in; Rwanda's dancing gorilla; Squiz-E doubles down; and the world's longest dog tongue.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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Do you ever get the feeling someone is watching you? That's probably because the eyes of the world were trained on Australia yesterday as the teen social media ban came into effect.

According to Australia's communications minister, Anika Wells, more than 200,000 Aussie kids under the age of 16 were booted off TikTok yesterday morning - as per the new law that the Australian government has created.

Meanwhile, lawmakers, advocates and media outlets from all over the world were reporting on the social media ban yesterday - giving front page treatment to Australia's world first ban - with some calling for similar laws to be created in their countries too.

And while the Prime Minister yesterday admitted the ban was not going to stop all kids from sneaking onto social media platforms - it still represented one of the biggest social and cultural changes Australia has ever faced.

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Just a note while I have you: this is my last daily news podcast for the year .. we're taking a break from the daily news pod as schools break up - to rest, recover and get ready to be back in your ears in 2026 .. keep listening over the holidays as we have heaps of great school holiday content planned - but in the meantime: a big thank you to all our listeners .. we don't take for granted that you choose to spend time with us each day and feel so lucky to have such a big - and growing by the day - community. Merry Christmas one and all - and be kind to each other this holiday season.

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 Rwanda, in eastern Africa, where a dancing gorilla has taken out the prize for the best comedy wildlife photo of the year.

Every year, wildlife photographers submit snaps they've taken of animals doing funny stuff - and every year, the competition is fierce to see which animal has behaved in the funniest manner.

And this year's winner is a juvenile gorilla from the misty mountains of Rwanda, who really put on a show for the cameras - dancing and twirling and generally having a great time. Maybe he was doing a dance for TikTok ... must be older than 16 ..

I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to the finalists - including a smiling fish, wrestling frogs and - my favourite - a breakdancing fox ... you're very welcome ..

BIGGEST FURTHEST LONGEST

From dancing gorillas to a dog that's claimed the Guinness world record for the world's longest tongue ... you can't say this podcast doesn't have variety ...

And today we dip our lid - which is a silly way of saying we salute and pay respect to - Ozzy the mastiff mix from Oklahoma City who has the unfortunate luck of possessing a tongue that measures 19.89 centimetres. As you'll see from the video I've included in today's episode notes - it's a whopper of a tongue. Not entirely sure how he eats with that thing ...

Ozzy beats the previous record holder in this most unique world record category .. a boxer called Rocky whose tongue measured a measly 13.88 centimetres.

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his nose into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and today - well, will you look at that - he's kicking back on a sun lounger by the pool - with a puppy mocktail and a Hawaiian shirt ... and that's because now the social media ban has come into effect - there's nothing left for Squiz-E to do ...

Except there is. Because while the ban will help to keep most kids under 16 off social media - they'll still be on the internet. Because we live in a digital age – at home, at school - the internet is now a part of our lives - lives that are lived to a large part online.

And learning to tell the difference between what's real and what's not online is still going to be very important. As Squiz E says: no parent would send a kid to the beach without first teaching them how to swim ... learning to tell the difference between online fact and online fiction only becomes more important with every passing day - especially in an age of AI.

So back to work for you Squiz-E! You've got a big 2026 ahead - making sure as many kids as possible become Newshounds - doing Squiz Kids very own, very free media literacy course for primary school kids, available on our website.

Because ban or not: we all need to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything we see online.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Aussie kids under what age have been banned from social media today?
2. In which country has a dancing gorilla been captured by a photographer?
3. What's the name of the dog who won a Guinness record for the world's longest tongue?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, December 11... only 14 sleeps to Christmas ... WAAAAH !! And how is this for exciting? Christie is chatting to Santa Claus himself today for our special Squiz Kids Q+A where the big fella in red answers questions you sent in ... the podcast will drop next Tuesday as we kick into our Christmas school holiday content .. make sure you're listening!

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

Charlie from Cheltenham, Khiem from Springvale, Ben and Maddy from Mount Crosby, Archer from Mount Riverview and Sam from Northcote.

A belated shoutout goes to...Stella from Northbridge.

And as today is the last day for classroom shoutouts for 2025, we want to send a big shoutout to every classroom and teacher who submitted a request this year. Thank you for your amazing support of Squiz Kids!

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

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 16
2. Rwanda
3. Ozzy

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 the Adults vs Kids Quiz.*last podcast for 2025

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