

**Mr Beast tops YouTube charts; London's hard drive heaters; T-Rex on tippy toes;
and human brain cells learn to game.**

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 Wednesday, March 4

In Squiz Kids Today ... Mr Beast tops YouTube charts; London's hard drive heaters; T-Rex on tippy toes; and human brain cells learn to game.

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

THE LOWDOWN

What do almost all Aussie kids have in common? It's not a love of Zooper Doopers. And it's not rolling their eyes when someone says, "Back in my day..."

It's YouTube.

The latest Young Australian Survey from research company Roy Morgan shows that 89% of Australian kids aged 6 to 13, around 2.5 million young people, are watching YouTube

The survey has been running since 2004, asking thousands of kids each year about what they think, watch and worry about. In results collected between April and December last year, Gaming was the number one category across every age group. And when asked to name a favourite channel, MrBeast dominated, chosen by 15.2% of kids

But the data also revealed something deeper. Among 10 to 13 year olds, YouTube watchers were more likely to say they worry about wars and terrorism, and more likely to

prefer computer games over playing outside. Meanwhile, non-watchers were more likely to say they enjoy reading and like eating healthy food

Does that mean YouTube causes worry? Or could worried kids be drawn to certain content? Surveys can show patterns, but not always the reason why.

And since this research was done mostly before Australia's new social media rules began, next year's results might look different.

If you're interested in taking a look, the full details are linked to in today's episode notes.

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 the United Kingdom, where computers are helping to keep people warm.

In the city of London, excess heat from a police data centre is being captured and piped into nearby homes to heat water and buildings. Data centres are giant warehouses full of computer servers that store and process information — everything from emails to streaming to artificial intelligence. The problem? They use enormous amounts of electricity and produce lots of heat. Around the world, there's growing concern about the energy needed to power data centres, especially as AI use explodes.

But this project shows how clever thinking can turn a problem into a solution. Instead of letting that heat drift away, it's being reused.

It's a bit like geothermal energy, where countries such as Iceland and New Zealand use heat from deep inside the Earth to warm homes and generate electricity.

Different source, same smart idea: don't waste the heat.

And if you'd like to learn more about geothermal energy and other renewable power sources, check out our Planet Warriors series — it explains how solar, wind, hydro, bio and geothermal energy work, and how they're helping power the future. It's free, on the Squiz Kids website.

ANCIENT EARTH

Picture this: a Tyrannosaurus rex. Ten tonnes of terror. Teeth like steak knives. And... it's tiptoeing.

For years now, movies have shown T-Rex charging across the land like an earthquake with teeth. But new biomechanical research suggests it may have been far less lumbering — and far more balanced.

Biomechanical research uses physics and engineering to study how bodies move, testing how bones, weight and balance work together.

Scientists looking at T-Rex fossil footprints and fossilised bones, believe the king lizard likely walked with controlled, careful steps — placing its feet in line (one in front of the other) and managing its centre of gravity like a heavyweight tightrope walker. A dinosaur built like a bus... moving like it's trying not to wake the neighbours... how dainty

So, why would it move that way? Energy efficiency and speed people. Walking on with their weight mainly on the front of their feet would have helped conserve power, protect bones, and maybe even sneak up on prey.

And I hope, somewhere in your imagination right now... a T-Rex is very quietly tiptoeing by...because it absolutely is in mine.

WEIRD SCIENCE

If you're already nervous about robots taking over... you might want to skip this one.

Scientists have trained a clump of living human brain cells to play the classic video game Doom.

Yes. Actual brain cells.

Back in 2021, an Australian company grew about 800,000 human neurons — that's brain cells — on tiny computer chips. These chips can send and receive electrical signals, almost like a digital conversation. At the time, it took years, but the neurons were trained to play a simple game called Pong.

Now, using the programming language, Python, they've managed to teach a smaller clump of neurons to play *Doom* — a far more complex game — in about a week.

The performance? Not exactly esports champion level - better than random button-mashing, but nowhere near as well as skilled humans.

Scientists say this isn't about building a brain in a jar. The neurons are being used as a kind of living material — one that processes information in ways regular computer chips can't.

But there's still a big mystery. Researchers don't fully understand how these cells are "learning" the game. How do they know what's expected of them? And how do they respond to what's happening on a screen... when they don't have eyes?

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What was the favourite YouTube channel of Aussie Kids in 2025?
2. Which 2 pieces of evidence are scientists using to figure out how the T-Rex walked?
3. What was the first game that Aussie scientists taught brain cells to play?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, March 4 ... Holi Festival ...Holi is a vibrant Hindu festival celebrated in India and around the world, marking the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. People gather to throw coloured powders, dance, share sweets, and forgive old grudges. It's known as the Festival of Colours—and if you see people looking like they've just finished a colour run - you'll understand exactly why.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Shriya from Vermont South, Sierra from Erskineville, Adam from Banana, Tobias from Edensor Park, Lucas from Wagga Wagga and Indy from Leura.

Belated shoutouts go to... Carter from Joyner, Jayda from Townsville, Aurora, Addi, Ivy and Chelsea all from Shoalhaven Heads and Nana listening over in Tokyo, Japan.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Years 5 and 6 with Mrs Butler at Banana State School, class 4T with Mrs Turner at West Moreton Anglican College in Ipswich, Honolulu class with Miss Hanson at Banks public school in Sydney, room 1 with Mrs Cannon at

Perenjori (peh-ren-jorree) Primary School and class 5B with Mr Bird at Berserker Street State School in North Rockhampton.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. MrBeast
2. Fossil footprints and fossilised bones
3. Pong

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.