

Ancient visitor from out of space; Messi, Ronaldo and Socceros in World Cup spotlight; how to help parents online; and the cow on a beach.

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, June 25 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Ancient visitor from out of space; Messi, Ronaldo and Socceros in World Cup spotlight; how to help parents online; and the cow on a beach.

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

THE LOWDOWN

An interstellar comet that is more than 12 billion years old has entered our solar system from a different star system and is streaking across our night skies, carrying with it messages that are older than Earth itself.

Ready to have your little minds blown? Wrap your heads around this ...

The comet, called 3I / Atlas has been captured in close up by the James Webb Telescope – an incredible telescope that humans sent up into space five years ago to peer out into the inky blackness of outer space.

And what scientists have this week concluded is that this comet - which has been flying through our solar system for over a year - was formed around 12 billion years ago - that's billion with a b - in a completely different, far-flung corner of the Milky Way galaxy – which is the one our solar system is in - and is most likely a piece of debris kicked out by our universe during the formation of a distant planet where temperatures are on average minus 250 degrees celsius.

Makes my head hurt a little bit ...

So – just to recap ... an ancient space rock, from an unknown corner of the galaxy, that's been spinning around in interstellar space for over 10 billion years and whose composition could completely rewrite what we know about how planets are created, is currently cruising non-chalantly through our intergalactic neighbourhood ...

Just. Nuts.

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 North America - where all eyes continue to be as the World Cup heats up.

And what a couple of days it has been.

Argentina's Lionel Messi broke a new record on Tuesday, becoming the highest goal scorer in World Cup history - slotting his 18th ball into the back of a World Cup competition net in his country's match against Austria.

Hot on Messi's heels is France's Kylian Mbappe - with his World Cup haul rising to 16 following his team's game against Iraq this week.

And making his presence felt too - Portugal's superstar striker, Cristiano Ronaldo who scored twice in his country's defeat of Uzbekistan. Not bad for a 41 year old starring in his sixth World Cup.

Mind you: All three of them have a little way to go before they break the record for the number of goals scored in a single World Cup .. a record held by a French player who scored 13 goals in the 1958 World Cup ... and that's your statistics lesson for the day ...

Meanwhile: there's expected to be a sudden downturn in productivity around Australia tomorrow morning around lunch time when the Socceroos take on Paraguay in their final group match.

A win or a draw for the Socceroos means they will progress to the next knockout round of the competition - and even a loss could still see them through to the so-called round of 32. So - yeah - they're in a good position, thanks to that emphatic first win against Turkiye ... Go you good things!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Do you remember the first time you ever went to the beach? Or maybe even now, when you see the sand and waves and lovely blue water - your heart skips a beat and you just run down to the water's edge for a splash?

That's certainly how Matilda reacted the first time she laid eyes on the beach ... which might not sound all that unusual, except that Matilda is a cow.

A highland calf - to be exact - which is a type of cow, renowned for their beautiful red coats and gentle nature.

Matilda's owner Brooke - who lives on the NSW mid-coast - took her spoilt little calf to the beach and videoed her reaction - and unsurprisingly, the video has gone viral.

I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes. Have a look ... i'm sure you'll agree its Mooooo-ving ... (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... ah, dang it - I almost made it through the week without setting off the dad joke alarm ...

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound drops into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and today his snout is twitching after coming across videos online of one of his favourite TV stars saying some pretty crazy stuff.

If you've ever watched a breakfast TV program called Sunrise, you might know its presenter, Nat Barr.

Squiz-E was shocked to go online and see a whole bunch of videos posted to Facebook of what appeared to be Nat calling the Aussie prime minister names and attacking other Aussie politicians during interviews.

Except - once Squiz-E did some sniffing - he discovered the videos were fake ...created by AI and uploaded to Facebook and other social media sites by people in Vietnam who have a record of sending out fake information - or disinformation - designed to create confusion ...

But luckily- we all know to do what Squiz-E tells us to do whenever we're online and come across a piece of content .. and that is ... say it with me: STOP, THINK and CHECK.

Think about who has made the content and whether we can trust them, and use the internet to check if they are who they say are ... because most times, they are not.

And because you're all smart Newshounds – you have a responsibility to help your parents and grandparents who maybe haven't had the same training to spot a fake - and let them know: just because it appears online, doesn't make it real.

Thanks Squiz-E - you've done it again.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONTENT

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Now before we get to the Quiz ... a little bit of housekeeping ..

Over the next few weeks, kids all over Australia will be heading off on winter school holidays (CHEER) ...

And that means the Squiz Kids daily news podcast will take a little break alongside you all.

But don't fret - because as usual - starting next Monday we'll be punching out content every single day to keep you entertained.

Christie is beavering away as we speak creating a new series of Brain Teasers ... she'll drop the clue in the morning, then publish the answer in the afternoon.

For both Fridays of the holidays, we'll have a couple of Road Trip Quizzes for you - and don't forget of course our Science Short on Saturdays and From The Vault episode every Sunday.

And then the daily pod will be back on Monday July 13 ... woo-hoo!!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which team does Australia play tomorrow in their World Cup match?
2. Approximately how many years old is the comet 3I / Atlas?
3. What's the name of the cow whose beach visit video has gone viral?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Thursday, June 25 – today is Global Beatles Day ... no, not the insect sort of beetles, the 1960s English band, The Beatles .. whose music is now over 60 years old but still loved by people of all ages ... If you've never listened to them, today's a good day to wrap your ears around them ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Rosabella from Ashmore, Daniel from Paddington, Neva from Sydney, Addisyn from Perth, Luke from Fig Tree Pocket and Henry M from Lane Cove West.

A belated shoutout goes to Xavier from Gulfview Heights.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Mrs Smith's class at Gladstone Public School, Class 1J6 with Mrs Connell at McDowell State School, class 4O at Abbotsleigh School in Sydney and a very happy birthday to their teacher Mr Harvey and the students at Bald Blair Public School and happy birthday to their teacher Mrs Lenehan for tomorrow.

And a reminder: if your birthday falls during the Squiz Kids winter school holiday break, don't worry - we'll give you a birthday shout-out in the Road Trip Bumper Quiz episode released on the Friday of the week of your birthday!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Paraguay
2. 12 billion
3. Matilda

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout... 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

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