

New UK Prime Minister kisses hands with King Charles; a speed cubing comp in The Netherlands; board games for the ancient afterlife; and a rhino poo glitter bomb.

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, July 23 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... New UK Prime Minister kisses hands with King Charles; a speed cubing comp in The Netherlands; board games for the ancient afterlife; and a rhino poo glitter bomb.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Imagine landing a new job and discovering that before you start you have to do something called "kissing hands". That's what's just happened to the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham.

Firstly, a quick geography lesson...the United Kingdom includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Andy's last job was as mayor of Manchester, which is a big city in the northwest of England...

Back to the hand kissing... The unusual name comes from an old royal tradition in which newly appointed officials knelt and lightly kissed the king or queen's hand as a sign of loyalty. These days, no actual kissing takes place when the prime minister is appointed... pheww... it's simply the name given to the private meeting where the King asks them to form a government.

Now there hasn't been an election in the UK, but last month, former PM Sir Keir Starmer resigned and his party, the Labour Party (a different one to Australia's one), selected Andy as their new party leader, and he was suddenly on his way to Buckingham Palace.

He's now Britain's seventh prime minister in only ten years... it's a bit like musical chairs there.

After meeting King Charles, Andy travelled to his new workplace and home at 10 Downing Street, where he promised immediate help for people struggling with living costs and a different approach to politics.

And while Britain welcomed a new prime minister, Spain welcomed home 26 footballing heroes.

Fresh from their 1–0 extra-time victory over Argentina, Spain's World Cup winners arrived in Madrid to find almost two million fans waiting for them.

After meeting the Spanish royal family and Prime Minister, the players took their trophy aboard an open-top bus and danced through streets awash with red and gold.

It's Spain's second men's World Cup victory, and judging by that crowd, Madrid may not be getting much sleep this week.

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 Arnhem, in the Netherlands, where more than 1,000 people have been twisting, turning and racing against the clock at the European Speedcubing Championship.

Competitors from 53 countries, aged from eight to 71, took part in 17 official events... including solving cubes one-handed, tackling enormous seven-by-seven cubes and, most mind-bogglingly, solving them blindfolded. In the multi-blind event, competitors first study a whole collection of scrambled cubes. Then the blindfold goes on, and they must solve as many as possible, all within one hour.

The world record is an astonishing 63 correctly solved cubes in under 59 minutes. I struggle to remember where I put my keys, and these people are remembering the position of hundreds of tiny coloured squares. There were also novelty challenges involving oven mitts, while behind the scenes, more than 250 volunteers scrambled every cube and placed it into a box ready for the next competitor.

Talk about thinking outside the box. And of course there's a link to a video in the episode notes.

ANCIENT EARTH

Archaeologists in China have discovered what may be a 2,000-year-old way to beat boredom in the afterlife.

Inside two Han Dynasty tombs in the city of Xi'an [SHEE-ahn], they found square bricks engraved with boards for an ancient game called Liubo [**LYOH-bwor**], meaning "six sticks".

Thanks to other statues, we know Liubo was played by two people, each believed to have controlled six pieces. Players probably threw sticks, much like rolling dice, to decide their moves, although the complete rules have been lost over time.

The tombs also contained pottery, mirrors, coins and miniature granaries (to store grain), and stoves. People in Han China often placed models of everyday things in tombs because they viewed the afterlife as a continuation of life on Earth, kind of like the ancient Egyptians. Archaeologists don't know whether these boards belonged to the people while they were alive, or were made especially for their burials; either way, the afterlife is a very long time. You'd probably want a good board game, and a rule book wouldn't go astray either.

WEIRD SCIENCE

What's the weirdest thing you've ever spotted in your poo? A few corn kernels? A mysterious strand of bean sprout? Maybe that's just me. Too much information? Anyhoo... At Monarto Safari Park in South Australia, keepers are actively searching rhino poo for something far more glamorous: glitter.

Seven-year-old Carrie and 15-year-old Savannah share an enormous enclosure, and several communal poo piles called middens. Yes, rhinos really do return to shared toilet spots, although not necessarily at the same time.

To tell their droppings apart, keepers feed each rhino a different colour of harmless edible glitter mixed into a favourite treat of hay. After testing several shades, blue and gold proved easiest to spot inside those enormous nuggets.

Samples are then sent away to measure hormones... chemical messages produced by the body. Changes in those messages can tell experts when each rhino may be ready to have a calf, or possibly reveal they are already pregnant.

With southern white rhinos still threatened by poaching, every new calf could help safeguard the species.

Who knew saving rhinos could begin with glitter...and one very large poop scoop?

Q+A ANDY GRIFFITHS Q&A

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If you could ask Andy Griffiths one question... anything at all... what would it be?

Would you ask where he gets his silliest ideas? Which *Treehouse* level he wishes really existed? Whether a joke has ever made him laugh so hard he couldn't keep writing? Or if there's such a thing as a story that's simply too gross?

Well, now's your chance, because Andy is returning to the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat to tell us about his new book, *You & Me and the Gigantic Knucklehead*—and answer questions from you.

Andy has written more than 40 books, including the wildly popular *Treehouse* series, so there's plenty to ask him about.

Email your question to **squizkids@thesquiz.com.au**. Teachers can send in questions from their whole class too.

There are prizes for the best questions, including a signed Andy Griffiths book pack—but you'll need to be quick. Entries close Monday 27 July, so get those gigantic thinking caps on!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the name of the tradition that the new UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham and King Charles participated in this week?

2. What is the world record number of Rubik's Cubes solved by a blindfolded competitor in under 59 minutes?
3. Which two colours are being used to distinguish the poos of two rhinos in South Australia?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Wednesday, July 23 – Spoonerism Day! This day celebrates Reverend William Archibald Spooner, born wayyy back on July 22 in 1844. He became famous for supposedly muddling the opening sounds of words, turning an ordinary phrase into something ridiculous, like 'a lack of pies' instead of 'a pack of lies' or knocking your 'bunny phone' instead of your 'funny bone'. Why don't you see how many you can come up with...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Amelia from Castlecrag, Ella from Palmyra, Alana from Doncaster East and Eliza from Goornong.

A belated shoutout goes to ... Aarya (pron Aa-ree-ya) from Camberwell.

Classroom shoutouts go to...the students in Hub 4 at John Hartley School in Canberra, Buninje Class with Mrs Wilkinson at Tabulam Public School and class 4 red at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School in Greystanes.

And lastly, but definitely not leastly, to class 6JM from St Therese Primary in Torquay, Victoria, and their teacher Ms Medson who emailed us earlier this week with some wonderful feedback on what they like about the podcast and what we could improve. You guys had some great ideas! Thank you!!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. kissing hands
2. 63
3. Blue and gold

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 .

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