The great homework debate; India's teenage cricket sensation; Squiz-E sniffs a sporty fake; and Harry Mania grips the country.

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, November 26

In Squiz Kids Today …. The great homework debate; India's teenage cricket sensation; Squiz-E sniffs a sporty fake; and Harry Mania grips the country.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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Ahh – homework! Who doesn't love homework? Lots of people it turns out .. and I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest maybe you're one of them.

But as the school year winds down, the subject of whether or not schools should assign homework has cropped up again after the release of a new study from a university in Sydney.

Whether or not homework is good for you has been the topic of debate among education experts and teachers and parents for years now - with some saying you learn all you need to learn in the classroom, and others saying the reinforcement of knowledge that you get from revision at home makes all the difference.

And it’s a topic that’s getting more attention as a new study shows homework helps build study routines and students’ ability to read and perform mathematical tasks quickly and easily.

Sorry … I know you probably don’t want to hear that with only 29 sleeps to Christmas …

But look - sometimes doing stuff we don’t want to do *can* help us out in the long run.

You’ll thank me for this one day.

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Speaking of Christmas .. the second biggest holiday in the United States takes place today .. I’m talking Thanksgiving Day – when families and friends get together to give thanks for all the good things in their lives.

It’s a big day of travelling for many Americans - as they move about the US to be with family - with some 81 million Americans expected to either take to the planes, trains or automobiles this holiday season.

There’s the big Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade in New York - with huge inflatables - the big NFL or gridiron Thanksgiving Day game - and the traditional eating of turkey, sweet potato and pumpkin and pecan pies… Mmmmm

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, nad today we’ve landed in Doha - where a 15 year-old cricketer from India has broken a new record hitting the most sixes in a single innings.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed - get this - 204 runs from only 53 balls - playing for his home country India in a match against the United Arab Emirates.

Vaibhav is no stranger to breaking records ... he made his first ever century - which is 100 runs - in the Indian Premier League when he was still only 14 years old.

And because it was not enough to break just one record with his stellar turn at the crease ... Vaibhash also set new records for the fastest century - which he achieved after facing only 28 ball - the fastest 150, which he got after facing 40 balls and the fastest double century, or 200 runs, for which he only needs 53 balls.

Remember the name ... because you're going to be hearing it a lot more often in the years to come ..

POP CULTURE CORNER

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Australia is on pop-star alert this weekend as one of the world's biggest pop stars prepares to take over Marvel Stadium in Melbourne ..

I'm talking Harry Styles - the former boy band member from England - who has become one of the hottest acts on the planet - and will play not one, but four sold out concerts at Marvel Stadium.

Sydneysiders: it will be your turn next - when Harry mania is set to land on the harbour city the following week for two concerts at Accor Stadium.

The Melbourne and Sydney concerts are the final leg of the popstar' Together Together world tour which saw him play a remarkable 30 nights at New York's Madison Square Garden and eight nights at London's Wembley Stadium - which can hold up to 80,000 fans each night.

Eight times 80,000 ... you do the math ... see? I told you he was popular.

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 snout is twitching angrily after sniffing out fake Facebook posts of Aussie cricket captain, Pat Cummins commenting about his former team mate, Usman Khawaja.

Now unless you've been happily living under a rock – and how lovely for you if you have - give the rock my regards - you'd know that the headlines in Australia have been full of stories about something called Sandpapergate … a cheating scandal that rocked Australian cricket 8 years ago.

It's seen high profile players like Khawaja and Cummins offer up different recollections of what happened and who knew.

But now Squiz-E has found some fake Facebook posts claiming that Pat made insulting comments about Usman's Pakistani heritage. Which he didn't ..

Now - why would someone want to do that?

Because - as we've discussed before, there are people, organisations and sometimes even other countries who don't like that Australia is made up of people from a group of different cultures and races and backgrounds who all mostly get along .. and they are trying to damage what's called 'social cohesion' in our country - by trying to create division by claiming people made racist comments that they never made.

Our job as Newshounds … is to always STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything we come across online.

And teachers: if you're looking for a plug + play, free classroom resource that makes excellent use of the last weeks of term - dip on into our Newshounds program via the squiz kids website … you're welcome.

SANTA Q+A

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(SLEIGH BELLS)

A HUUUUUGE thank you to the hundreds of you who have sent in questions for our upcoming Q+A with Santa and Mrs Claus…

Your questions are all excellent … I only wish we were able to use them all.

Tomorrow's the last day for you to send in a question - either by following the instructions on our website, or by sending it to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au

We'll choose the best dozen questions and put them to the big fella in red and his lovely wife when we speak to them next week .. for a podcast that will drop just before Christmas, on Monday December 21.

And while you have your Santa hats on: keep an ear out for an special interview I did with one of the elves working at Santa's Post Office .. processing the millions of letters kids send to Santa each year.

Because ,,,, there are only 29 sleeps to go!! Woo-hoo!

(SLEIGH BELLS)

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What holiday is being celebrated today in the United States?
2. How many runs did India's teen cricket sensation hit off 53 balls to break all the records?
3. In which Aussie capital city will Harry Styles kick off the Australian leg of his world tour this weekend?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, November 26 – on this day back in 1865, Alice first fell down the rabbit hole and ended up in Wonderland - with the publishing of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Ryan from Wamberal and Oliver from Mansfield.

Belated shoutouts go to...

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 6J with Mrs Jones at Claremont Meadows Public School, class 2 Gold with Miss Ringwood at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School in Sydney, class 3D with Miss Morrella at St Francis of Assisi Primary School in Calwell and class 3L with Mrs Deusousa and Mrs Martin at Dapto Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Thanksgiving
2. 204
3. Melbourne

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout, or parents, if you'd like to shout out a class or a wonderful teacher... drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

And finally: if you love Squiz Kids, we'd love you do us a favour and hit follow on Apple Podcasts or Spotify or wherever you're listening to us. And while you're there, why not share this episode with someone you think would enjoy it too? The only way we can continue to do what we do is by growing and in order to grow, we need your support -

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. Your chance to see who's smarter, kids or adults.

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