



HO, HO, HO! Hello!

Oh bless my buttons... I've just received the biggest bag of letters. I get so many letters every year – more than a million! I answer nearly every one before Christmas. The elves help me. They open the letters and they put addresses like yours on the envelope that I mail back with my letter inside.

It is a splendid morning here at the North Pole and I can't think of anything I'd rather do than sit down and answer them! There isn't enough time to get these last few letters delivered before Christmas, so I'm going to take them with me and leave them in the Christmas tree, on the breakfast table or maybe in one of your winter boots!

Like you, I can't wait for Christmas to come. All of us at the North Pole are so excited! We are as busy as penguins in the workshop. Rudolph, the other reindeer and all the elves are well, and ready for our big night. I've just enjoyed a sugar cookie (I like ALL cookies, but this year sugar cookies are my favourite!) and I am making the very last revisions to the Nice List.

This afternoon, the reindeer and Mrs. Claus will look closely at the sleigh, harnesses and sacks we fill with presents! Mrs. Claus is better at these things – after all, she is the North Pole's Chief Engineer! She'll make sure everything is in tip-top shape for the big trip around the world – including where you'll be. By the way, Mrs. Claus sends you a big hug and says "Hello!"

I hope you will have a happy Christmas, and I wish you a great year. Thank you for writing and thank you so much for waiting patiently for my reply. Please write again next year!

Your friend,

*Santa*

