Hello dear friend ...

I am so sorry I wasn't able to answer your letter before now. There was a malfunction in one of the mail sorters and a whole bag of mail was shredded! It was awful... Curly, and all the other postal elves, spent days (and days!) piecing together hundreds of letters. They only just finished today and there simply isn't enough time to get my replies delivered before Christmas. I'm going to take them with me and leave them in Christmas trees, on breakfast tables or maybe in a winter boot!

Your letter was wonderful, just like you! I can't get over how much you've grown. I remember when you were too young to write to me. Imagine that!

This year has been so different from any year I can remember. And that's a long time because I've been Santa forever! But everyone at the North Pole is healthy and happy and I have so much to tell you about them...

Mrs. Claus had a wonderful year. She taught part time at North Pole University again and continues to snowboard whenever she can. She's also learning how to speak polar bear. She's amazing, the bravest and kindest person I know. The reindeer are dancing with excitement (fit and ready for our big adventure) and the elves are as busy as penguins playing tag.

This is, of course, my favourite time of year. I love how everyone works so hard (even piecing together shredded letters!) to make the season special. It really is a magical time filled with love, joy and special memories. During our grand adventure on Christmas Eve, I will sprinkle some magical North Pole snow over your home. It will bring you and your family a wonderful New Year. Merry Christmas!

Love you loads! Santa