

Card 1

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy all year and I have done lots of jobs: I have taken Buster for little walks on his lead; I have kept my bedroom tidy (most of the time); I have tried to be kind to all my friends at school (even Toby, who sometimes isn't nice to me); I have tried to remember to bring all my stuff when I visit Dad at the weekend; I have worked hard in Mrs. Thompson's class; and I have tried not to bother Mum when she's busy with little Megan.

For Christmas, I would like you to bring me: a Stoke City football shirt; a new game for my PlayStation (car racing please); some new trainers (no laces please); a big block of chocolate; a new Star Wars Lego set; a doll for Megan; and a Stoke City calendar.

Thank you

Matthew

Card 1 Questions

1. Who wrote the letter to Santa?

2. Who is Mrs. Thompson?

3. What kind of animal is Buster?

4. What football team does Matthew support?

5. Why do you think Matthew wants trainers with no laces?

6. What food does Matthew ask Santa for?

Card 2

St. Antony's School Carol Concert

To be opened by Chair of Governors, Councillor Ann Hall.

Wednesday 14th December, 2pm.

Thursday 15th December, 2pm and 6.30pm.

The concert will be held in the school hall.



Raffle



Hot Mince Pies

Parents, please note: no young children for the second performance on Thursday please.

Card 2 Questions

1. Which school is holding a carol concert?

2. Who is going to open the carol concert?

3. How many performances will there be?

4. What tickets might you buy at the carol concert?

5. Why do you think that parents have been asked not to bring young children to the evening performance?

Card 3

Stuck in the Loft

The front door closed and the house fell silent. Mum had taken Sam and his brother, Ben, off to school on her way to work. Dad was on his own for the day but Mum had left him a list of jobs that needed doing.

TO DO LIST

- Get Christmas decorations down from loft.
- Fix wobbly shelf in bathroom.
- Take Bungle for her daily walk

The list wasn't too long and he thought there'd be enough time left for him to watch a bit of snooker on the TV, with a cup of tea and a slice of cake, before they all returned at tea time.

Dad looked at the list. "Decorations first." He announced to Bungle. Having carefully placed the step ladders on the upstairs landing, Dad climbed up into the loft. Bungle was a bemused spectator. The loft was dark and Dad wished he had brought his phone with its torch. Suddenly, the post man knocked on the front door. Bungle was so excited, he rushed downstairs to see what was going on. Sadly, in his excitement, he managed to knock the ladders over, leaving Dad stranded in the loft with no phone. "You stupid dog, no walk for you today!" shouted Dad as he wondered what to do till tea time.

Card 3 Questions

1. Where had Mum taken Sam and Ben?

2. What did Dad plan to eat with a cup of tea?

3. Who is Bungle?

4. Why did Dad wish he had taken his phone into the loft?

5. Who knocked on the door?

6. Why did Dad call Bungle a stupid dog?

Card 4

Dear Grandma and Grandad,

Thank you so much for the lovely parcel you sent us. We all had a lovely time but missed seeing you. It was really hot over here at Christmas so we had a great barbeque on the beach. How is Grandad's leg? Is he out of his plaster cast yet? Dad really liked his woolly hat and scarf. Mum loves the thick, stripy woollen socks and Tom and I can't wait to try out the sledge you sent.

Dad's car has got a big dent in it because a kangaroo jumped into the road. The kangaroo was ok but Dad was mad.

We hope to fly over in the winter (our summer) and it will be lovely to see you.

Lots of love,

Kirsty xxx

Card 4 Questions

1. Who wrote the letter?

2. Where do you think Kirsty and her family might live?

3. What did Kirsty and her family have for Christmas dinner?

4. Which part of Grandad's body was in a plaster cast?

5. What present did Grandma and Grandad send for Kirsty and Tom?

6. What caused the dent in Dad's car?

Card 5

Doris the Donkey

For 364 days each year, Doris the Donkey led a quiet, contented life. She lived in a lovely field, she had a warm stable to sleep in and her owner, Mrs Revell, regularly gave her apples and carrots as treats.

But on one day each December, Mrs Revell loaded Doris into a trailer and drove her to St. Antony's School where she was to take a starring role in the children's Nativity play.

After 15 minutes in the trailer, she pulled into the school car park and Doris could hear the excited cries and laughter of the children in the playground. She could smell school dinners too. She knew where she was - she could remember from last year.

Mrs Revell led her out of the trailer where a group of children had gathered to greet her, pat her and say "Ah" to her.

Everybody at the school - children, parents, staff and Mrs Revell - all hoped that Doris wouldn't repeat last year's embarrassing and messy behaviour.



Card 5 Questions

1. Who owns Doris the Donkey?

2. Why was Doris taken to St. Antony's school every year?

3. How long did it take to transport Doris to the school?

4. What could Doris smell when she arrived at the school?

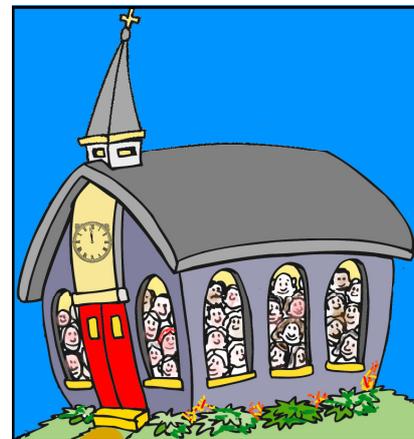
5. What did the children want to say to Doris?

6. What embarrassing thing do you think Doris might have done at the school last year?

Card 6

Midnight Mass

It is traditional for Christians to attend a Midnight Mass at their local church as part of their Christmas celebrations . A service is held at midnight on Christmas Eve. Along with a traditional church service, many Christmas Carols are sung. It is considered a family-friendly service and children often attend, despite its lateness.



In some countries, it is known as *The Service of the Cockerel* following the belief that, at midnight, when Jesus was born, a cockerel was heard to crow.

Unlike the UK, for many European countries, Christmas Eve is the day on which presents are exchanged and opened and Midnight Mass is seen as the end of Christmas Eve celebrations.

Card 6 Questions

1. When is Midnight Mass held?

2. Where is Midnight Mass held?

3. What happens at a Midnight Mass?

4. Who might attend a Midnight Mass?

5. Why is Midnight Mass known as *The Service of the Cockerel* in some countries?

6. When do people from other European countries often open their presents?

Card 7

Christmas Shopping

It was like a military operation, it seemed weeks had gone into the planning, several lists had been written and rewritten, space had been made in fridges, freezers and cupboards and now Mum and Ellie were at the supermarket.

And so was everyone else!

Equipped with bags, lists and different, coloured pens, they both took a deep breath, gave each other a nervous smile and set about the Christmas food shop.



One and a half hours later, they emerged from the shop, with a trolley, laden with food, drink and treats - enough to last them all through the Christmas period. They were tired, impatient, hungry and thirsty and promised themselves NEVER to do that again.

Card 7 Questions

1. Why had space been made at Ellie's house?

2. How do you know the supermarket busy?

3. What did they take with them to the supermarket?

4. If they entered the supermarket at 10.30, what time did they leave?

5. Do you think they will do it again? If so when?

6. Who went to the supermarket?

Card 8



Santa's Elves

Santa's elves are very excited but also very tired. They have been so busy wrapping children's presents for Santa to deliver on **The Big Day**. The oldest of the elves is called Maxi and it is his job to hurry all the other elves along and remind them how important their job is. Baxi is the youngest elf and it is her first Christmas helping Santa. She gets very tired and sometimes, she struggles to read the words on Santa's lists. When she can't read something, she always asks Maxi to help her. He is always kind, caring and patient.

A few days before Christmas, Baxi was given a long list of jobs. She had to guess at some of the words because Maxi was very busy, organising a big delivery to the children's hospital. She looked at her list. She thought it said, "Boots for Andrea." so off she went to get some flowery wellies for a little girl. Maxi came over and started to laugh. "You've done really well considering it's your first Christmas helping us but the list doesn't say Andrea, it says, "Books for Andrew, but never mind, we can soon fix it."

Baxi felt a bit silly but knew she would do better next year.

Card 8 Questions

1. What do you think **The Big Day** is?

2. Who is the oldest elf and what is his job?

3. Who is the youngest elf?

4. What did Baxi think Santa's note said?

5. What did Santa's actually say?

6. Where was Maxi organising a delivery to?

Card 9

Delivering Christmas Cards

Mum asked Daisy and Mia to deliver Christmas cards to the neighbours. "Great!" said Daisy, "That will be fun." They got all dressed up with scarves, gloves and woolly hats and picked up the pile of cards Mum had written. The first house they had to deliver to was Mrs Brown who lived next door. She was an old lady who lived on her own. She was always very kind to the girls. As they walked up the path to her front door, it opened and Mrs Brown greeted them with a big smile. "Hello girls, what can I do for you on this cold winter's night?" asked Mrs Brown. "We've brought you a Christmas card." said Daisy, the oldest girl. "How kind, I've got something for you too." said Mrs Brown as she hobbled back into her living room. She returned a minute later, carrying a beautifully wrapped parcel. "There," she said "but don't open it until Christmas Day." "Oh thank you, that's very kind." said Mia.



Card 9 Questions

1. What was the weather like?
What makes you think this?

2. Who lived next door to the girls?

3. What is the name of Daisy's sister?

4. Who is the youngest sister?

5. What did Mrs. Brown give to the girls?

6. When can the girls open the parcel?

Card 10

Fun Facts about Christmas

- Christmas trees are evergreen trees, usually either a fir tree, pine tree or spruce tree.
- It is believed that decorating Christmas trees originated in the 16th century in Germany when Christians would bring decorated trees into their homes.
- Christmas trees were first decorated with foods such as apples, nuts and dates.
- In the 18th century, Christmas trees began being decorated with candles.
- Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895.
- If you received all the gifts from the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" you would have 364 presents.
- Do you know why we say the Twelve Days of Christmas? It is believed that it took The Three Kings 12 days to find baby Jesus.
- Did you know that tinsel was once made of real silver? It was invented in Germany in 1610.



Card 10 Questions

1. Give two examples of trees that can be used as Christmas trees?

2. In which country were trees first brought into people's homes?

3. Before electric lights were used, how were trees illuminated?

4. How many years ago were electric lights first used?

5. How many days did it take The Three Kings to find Jesus?

6. From what metal was tinsel originally made?
