

## **Squiz Kids Q&A with Santa Claus**

Hello Squiz Kids ! It's Bryce here - super excited about today's very special Squiz Kids Q+A with ... drum roll please ..... SANTA CLAUS!

As you know - we've done a bunch of Squiz Kids Q+As in our time - with prime ministers and pop stars, authors and sports stars ... but never have we had someone agree to take the Squiz Kids hotseat quite like this jolly old fellow you're about to meet ...

Yes, ladies and germs, I'm talking about the big fella in red himself, the man of the festive moment, a bloke so famous and so beloved around the world that he needs barely any introduction ..

But before we dial into the North Pole: a huge thank you to all the Squiz Kids who sent in a question for Santa. We received hundreds, from all over the country - and we wanted to put every single one of them to Santa - but because he's such a busy man, what with Christmas Eve only one sleep away - we've had to limit it to twelve questions. Like the twelve days of Christmas.

But don't worry if your question doesn't get asked ... we sent the names of every kid who asked a question to Santa and he's assured us he'll make sure you all get slotted onto the NICE list, not the naughty one this Christmas. Phew!

And don't forget: everyone who sent in a question has gone into the draw to win a family pass to Movie World on the Gold Coast ... keep listening until the end of this podcast to see if you were the winner ...

Ok ... let's jump straight into it ... checking the time .. yep, this is the time we agreed I'd phone the North Pole ... dialling the number .... It's a long distance call, of course ... and waiting to be put through ....

Santa:

Hello?

BC:

Hello!? Is this Santa Claus?

Santa:

Hohohoho ... why yes it is? Is that you Bryce? My elves said you'd be phoning ...

BC:

Yes! It's me! Calling you all the way from Australia ... I can't believe I'm actually speaking to you!

Santa:

(chuckles) Ahh yes ... it's definitely me. It's so lovely to hear your voice. How's the weather down there in Australia?

BC:

Well Santa, it's hot. As I am sure you know - it's summer down here. We're about as far removed from the snow and ice of the North Pole as it's possible to be ...

Santa:

(chuckles) Ah yes ... an Aussie Christmas ... there's nothing quite like it in the world. I have special air conditioning installed in the sleigh for when I visit Australia - and I always make sure to make plenty of stops for the reindeer to drink plenty of water ...

BC:

Oh Santa ... you don't know how excited we all are down here. It's our favourite time of the year here at Squiz Kids. And I can't believe there's only two more sleeps until Christmas morning ... now, can I just ask whether I've made the naughty or nice list this year? I've been doing my best to behave ...

Santa:

Hmmm ... let's see .... (taps on keyboard) - everything is very modern these days .. I've got all the kids of the world in a database ... CORBETT, Bryce .... Ahhh yes -

here you are. Well it looks like you had a bit of a naughty spell back in July and August, but according to your parents and the Elf on Your Shelf - you've been trying really hard to be a good boy ...

BC:

I really have Santa ... but you know what - today is not about me. It's about the Squiz Kids here in Australia - who have sent questions in for you to answer. Can you take a little break from toy making and reindeer prepping to answer a dozen questions from Aussie kids?

Santa:

I would love to. Mrs Claus has made me a lovely hot chocolate, the elves are packing the sleigh - and I'm ready to roll ...

BC:

Alright, I know how busy you are, so let's jump straight in ... and our first question comes from Blackburn in Victoria ...

Scar:

**How many elves do you have, do they all have names and how can you tell them apart?**

Santa:

Ahh ... excellent question! And do you know, I don't know the exact number - but its definitely in the thousands.. And so I would be lying if I said I knew every single one of their names. But I do know the names of my head elves ... the ones who run the my workshop ... there's **Alabaster Snowball** who manages the Naughty and Nice List, there's **Bushy Evergreen** who invented the magic toy-making machine, Pepper Minstix - who's in charge of security and guards my secret village and workshop, there's **Pepper Minstix**: Guards Santa's secret village and workshop, there's **Sugarplum Mary** who is in charge of Christmas Eve travel logistics and keeps the workshop running ship-shape, then there's Elf Victor who looks after the stables and organises the annual reindeer games, and finally, there's **Bernard Elf** - who's the Chief Elf and overseer of the other elves.

BC:

Wow ... so many jobs ... and so many elves. So here's a question now from 7yo Gus from the ACT ..

### **How do you decide who's on the naughty and nice list?**

Santa:

Ahh Gus ... what an excellent question. And it's one I get asked A LOT ! And do you know what? I'm going to let you in on a little secret. I rely on your parents and teachers to help me out with that one. Towards the end of every year, I ask them to email me a behaviour update - to let me know whether you've been generally well behaved or whether you've been misbehaving. Now, I know, kids can't be good ALL the time ... but if you've been naughty more often than you've been nice - you can be sure I'll find out about it.

BC:

I'm sure you will, Santa ... ok, popping over to Western Australia now where we have a somewhat related question from Oscar ...

### **Does Elf on the shelf watch us? Oscar, Beaconsfield WA**

Good question Oscar ... I have to say, ever since Elf On The Shelf has made its way into homes all over the world, my naughty and nice lists have gotten even more detailed. Those elves see all sorts of things - and they're pretty good at letting me know whether you've been a good kid and listened to your parents and teachers. Or whether you've been naughty. Not that any of the Squiz Kids need to worry ... I'm sure they've all been on their best behaviour this year ...

BC:

Oh yes Santa ... Squiz Kids are renowned for being good kids ... on the same topic now, let's take a question that comes to us from another Oscar - huh, popular name - this one is from the other side of the country - he's in Erskineville in Sydney ...

### **Which country has the best behaved children?**

Santa:

Oh, Oscar - that's an excellent question. And do you know what? Very happily for me there are well-behaved children all over the world. Mexico has some very well behaved kids, as does Fiji and South Africa. The children in Finland are generally well-mannered, and your neighbours in New Zealand are always on their best behaviour. But I have to say that Australia is one of my favourite countries in the world to visit. Parents and teachers have done such a good job with you all throughout the year - that it makes my job of compiling a naughty and nice list very easy. So make sure you thank your parents and teachers for doing such a good job with you. They've earned it.

BC:

Oh, they sure have Santa. Let's head down to South Australia now where Mila has a question for you ...

### **When do you start making the toys for Christmas Day ?**

Santa:

Oh gosh! Do you know what Mila? I like to give all of the elves a solid break after Christmas, because they have worked so hard. And I usually need a couple of weeks to get over Christmas myself. So we tend to start planning in late-January, and ideally like to have the workshop up and running again by the middle of February ... which gives us a solid 10 months to get all the toys ready for when we do it all over again in December. It's a big operation ...

BC:

It sure is! I hope you get some down time over the New Year, Santa. Now we have a question from Wentworth Point in NSW ...

### **How do you get into apartment where there is no chimney?**

Santa:

Well - there's a couple of ways ... if you've listened already to the Squiz Kids Shortcut on the Science of Santa that came out last week - you'd know that some scientists reckon I have developed the skill to shrink myself to the size of the average keyhole, others say that I've developed the skill of teleportation - allowing me to beam into every living room in the blink of an eye. I can neither confirm nor deny those theories. But what I can tell you is that when all else fails - I have a magic key - it's the only one in the world - and it opens every door. I keep it safe - under lock and key - in the North Pole. It only works for me - no-one else can use it - and I am super careful to lock all doors behind me when I leave. The important thing is to remember: wherever you live, whether you have a chimney or not, whether you're on holidays or at home ... I will find you.

**Bryce:**

**Ok - so I have a question: and I don't mean to be rude – but where a house has a chimney, how do you fit down it?**

Santa:

Are you saying I'm fat? You sound like Mrs Claus ...

Do you know, every year from about September, she puts me on a diet? To make sure I'm fit enough to do my round the world present delivery on Christmas Eve. It's all green shakes and no carbs for a whole month, then the fitness elves come in and put me through my paces. Star jumps and back bends and planking for a whole month. Have you ever tried to plank in the snow? It's hard work. But by the time Christmas comes around - I'm fit as a fiddle and ready to do my rounds. But if you listen to that Squiz Kids Shortcut on the Science of Santa, you'll find out the other clever ways I've worked out to get in and out of houses.

**BC:**

Never doubted you for a second ... ok, time to take a question now from Devon who's from Oran Park in NSW ....

**Do you feel hot when you travel around Australia? Devon, Oran Park, NSW**

Santa:

Excellent question Devon ... and the simple answer is YES! It's always very hot when I do my present deliveries in Australia. And South Africa, and Argentina - not to

mention all of those countries on the equator, like Singapore and parts of India and the Middle East. And that's because while it's winter in the northern hemisphere, it's summer down under. But luckily - many many years ago, when your very own Squiz Kids host, Bryce, was a little boy, he got his mother to make me a pair of Xmas boardshorts .. and I still wear them to this day whenever I am in Australia. Thanks Mrs Corbett!

BC:

Ahh - she sends her love. And she's made some of her famous Christmas cake again for you this year... though not sure how that's going to work with your diet ... moving right along, and another logistics question from Gabriel from Kemps Creek in NSW ...

### **How do you go to every house in one night? Gabriel, NSW**

Santa:

Ah yes .... Now that's another question I get all the time. Because, as you know, it's a big wide world and there are lots of countries to visit and presents to deliver. And luckily the Squiz Kids Shortcut on the Science of Santa runs through a lot of the answers to a lot of these questions. And this one involves something called a wormhole .. which is sort of like a hyperdrive ... a way of sliding effortlessly from one place to another. Plus there's a fair bit of Christmas magic involved. Because, there's no more magical time of the year than Christmas.

BC:

How right you are ... and the magic of Christmas is just believing in magic itself. Which brings us neatly to a question from Millie, who's in Victoria ..

### **Does your sleigh work if people stop believing in you? Millie**

Santa:

Ohh Millie ... what an excellent question. Perhaps you've seen the movie Elf? It's one of my favourite holiday films. Does my sleigh stop working if people stop believing? We've tried all sorts of different fuels for the Santa Sleigh over the years - and some of them work better than others. But what's undoubtedly true is that the

sleigh works best when people believe. You know - sometimes the wonder of not knowing how something works is what makes it truly magical. The magic of Christmas is about believing in something extraordinary. It's about the spark of imagination that lights up when let yourself believe.

BC: Beautifully put, Santa ... Now I know you're on a tight deadline - but if you're ok, we've got a few more questions to go?

Santa:

Of course, of course! I'm actually enjoying this. Squiz Kids have such clever questions.

BC:

They're a clever bunch, Santa ... ok - who's next here? Ah yes, it's Zac, from Coburg in Melbourne ...

**We would like to know what your favourite Christmas song is.**

Santa:

Oh, that's an easy one. It's a little song called "I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus" ... ho ho ho! No, of course it's not - that's just Santa being silly. There's no time for kissing - too many presents to deliver. For a very long time my favourite Christmas carol was "Jingle Bells" - because I love the sound of the reindeer bells - and then back in the 60s, I used to love flying along listening to Jingle Bell Rock - because it was so jaunty. But as I've gotten older, I find myself drawn to the classics ... and I can't go past Silent Night.

BC:

Yes! Me too! The Bing Crosby version is the best! Righto - only two questions left. Let's go to sunny Queensland now for a question from Hazel ..

**What is your favourite snack for kids to leave out on Christmas Eve?**



Santa:

Oh Hazel! How very thoughtful of you! Don't tell Mrs Claus, because I'm supposed to be on a diet - but I like any kind of cookie, I'm quite partial to a bit of Christmas cake ... sometimes when I'm in Australia I'll stumble upon the odd Tim Tam or Iced Vo Vo and that's always a nice surprise. But let's assume Mrs Claus is going to listen to this, in which case I am going to say an apple or a low-fat tub of sugar-free yoghurt. Hohohohoho!

BC:

Nudge nudge, wink wink, Santa — okay - gosh, look at the time - you've got to get back to those elves.

Last question Santa ... let's see. Ah yes, it's down to beautiful Tasmania we go - where Lily has a question ...

### **What would you like for Christmas this year, Santa?**

Santa:

Ahhh Lily ... what a kind little girl you are! I would like all kids everywhere to be as thoughtful and selfless as you obviously are. And that's the one thing I would emphasise to all kids. Yes, receiving presents on Christmas Day is super exciting – but the real pleasure in life comes from giving. Being generous of mind and spirit - which is to say, being kind. So try to remember that over the Christmas holidays - a kind word or thoughtful gesture here and there - and you just might make someone's Christmas.

BC:

Well said, Santa. Well, I'm going to let you go now - because you have a busy 24 hours ahead. Best of luck with tomorrow night Santa! I promise I'll be in bed early and won't wake up too long before the sun has risen ... I just have one more request.

Santa:

Yes, of course.

BC:

**We've got a family pass to give away to Movie World on the Gold Coast - just in time to celebrate 85 years of Batman!**. We had hundreds of questions from kids all over Australia - and each kid went into the draw ... can you tell us who the winner is?

Santa:

I'd be delighted to ... but first I want to say thank you to each and every Aussie kid that sent in a question .. you're all going onto my nice list !! And the winner of the Movie World family pass is .... 7 year old Harvey from Mount Riverview in NSW ... who sent in the excellent question of 'How long is your beard' - and you know what Harvey, I've never measured it - long enough to get lots of cookie crumbs caught in it - evidence for Mrs Claus to accuse of me of not following my diet

BC:

Ah - congrats to them. We'll be in touch via email to get your prize to you. And finally Santa: it's Squiz Kids Q+A tradition to have our special guest do the Squiz Kids sign-off – would you do the honours?

Santa:

I'd be happy to ... now get out there and have a most EXCELLENT Christmas!

BC:

Over and out!