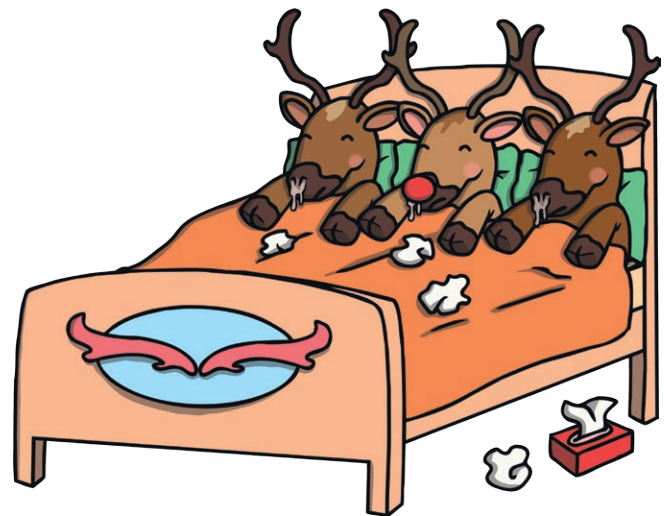


**Santa was left feeling very worried yesterday in his North Pole home when his herd of reindeer were all suddenly taken ill. Will they all be better to help to deliver the children's presents on Christmas Eve?**

Yesterday morning, Santa went out to his wooden stable to give his animals some yummy reindeer porridge for breakfast. When he got inside, he could see that his entire herd had runny noses and terrible coughs. Even Rudolph's glowing nose looked more red than usual!

Quickly, Santa got them all wrapped up in snugly blankets and made them all hot drinks. Then, he phoned the local vet because he was feeling very concerned about them. The vet confirmed that Rudolph and the other nine animals all had reindeer flu. He told them all to rest for a few days and to take cough medicine until they felt better but Santa is very nervous that they won't be better by Christmas Eve.

Last night, Santa and his wife



**'The poorly reindeer in their sick beds.'**

took the whole herd inside their wonderful grotto to keep warm and dry because of the cold, wintry weather. Mr and Mrs Claus have their fingers crossed that their precious reindeer will recover in time to pull Santa's magical sleigh in just a few days time.