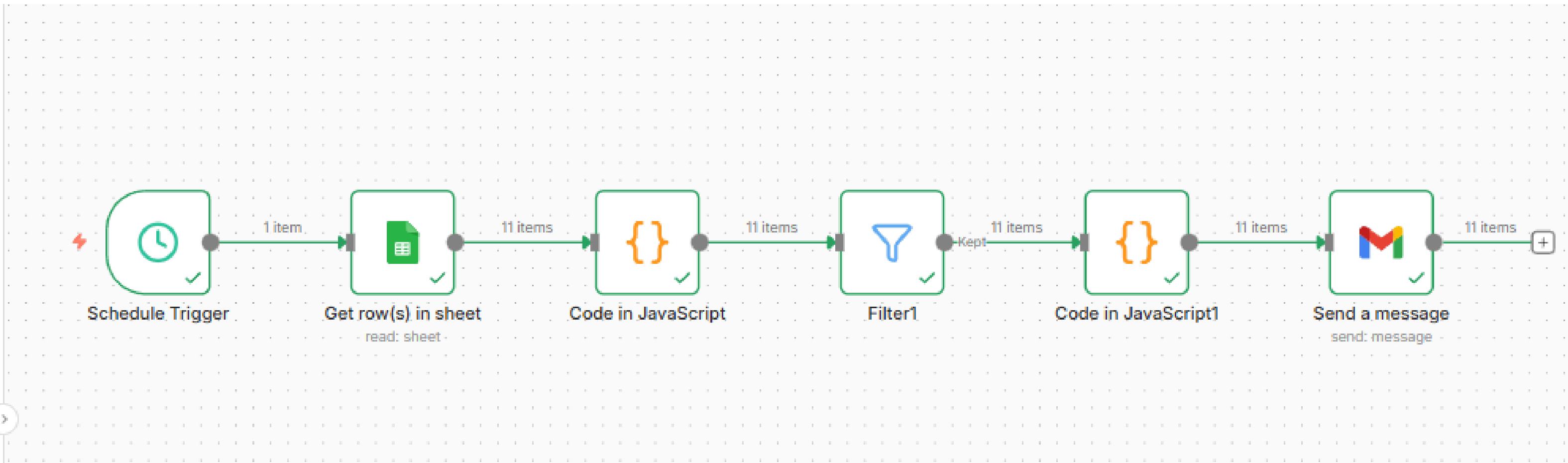
Pet Birthday Butler- Automated Birthday Reminder system.

Overview

This n8n workflow automatically sends birthday reminder emails to pet owners. It runs daily, checks a Google Sheets database for upcoming pet birthdays, and sends personalized emails either on the birthday or 7 days before.

Workflow Architecture

Schedule Trigger → Google Sheets → Date Processing → Filter → Message Formatting → Gmail



Data Flow

1. **Daily Trigger** → Workflow starts at 8:00 AM
2. **Fetch Data** → All pet records retrieved from Google Sheets
3. **Process Dates** → Each pet's birthday is analyzed
4. **Filter** → Only pets with birthdays today or in 7 days pass through
5. **Send Emails** → Personalized birthday emails sent to owners

Key Features

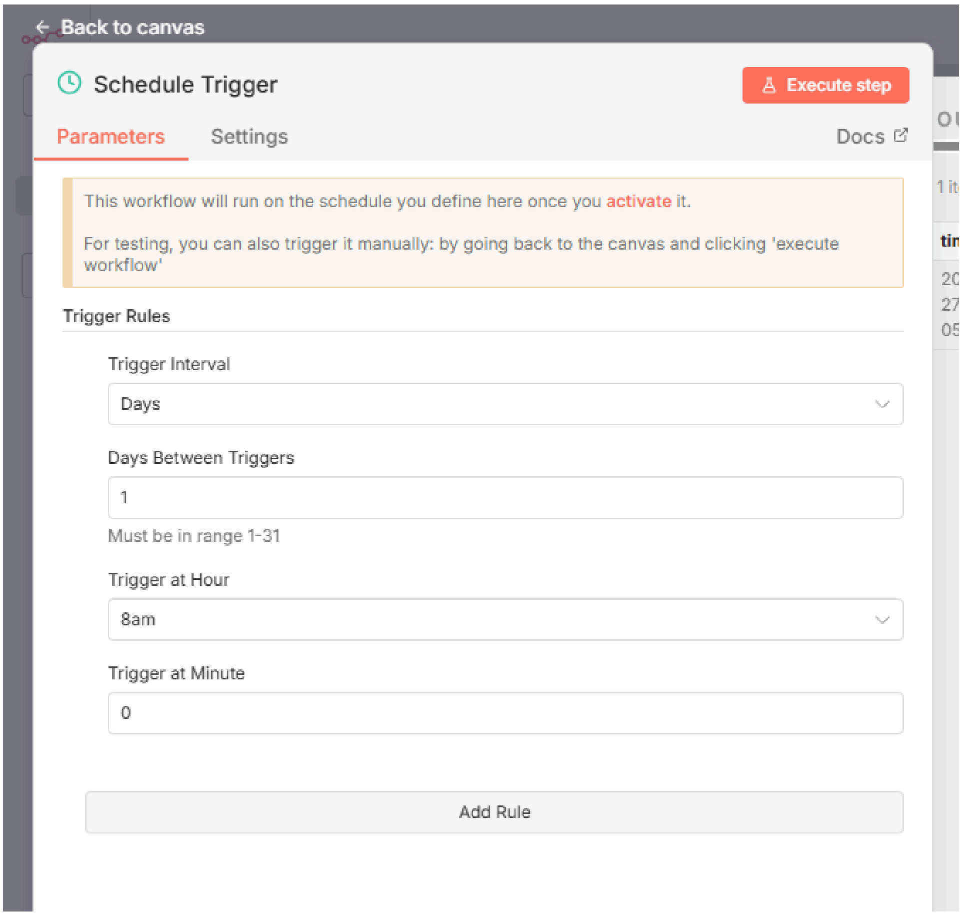
- **Automated Daily Execution**: No manual intervention required
- **Date Format Handling**: Converts DD/MM/YYYY to JavaScript-compatible format

- **Smart Filtering**: Only sends emails when needed (birthday or 7-day reminder)
- **Error Handling**: Gracefully handles invalid dates
- **Personalization**: Uses pet name and owner email for customized messages
- **Dual Reminder System**: Alerts 7 days before and on the actual birthday

Step-by-Step Process

1. Schedule Trigger

- **Node Type**: Schedule Trigger
- **Configuration**: Runs daily at 8:00 AM
- **Purpose**: Initiates the workflow automatically every day
- **Output**: Timestamp and date information for the current execution



Schedule Trigger

This workflow will run on the schedule you define here once you activate it.

For testing, you can also trigger it manually: by going back to the canvas and clicking 'execute workflow'

Trigger Rules

Trigger Interval: Days

Days Between Triggers: 1

Must be in range 1-31

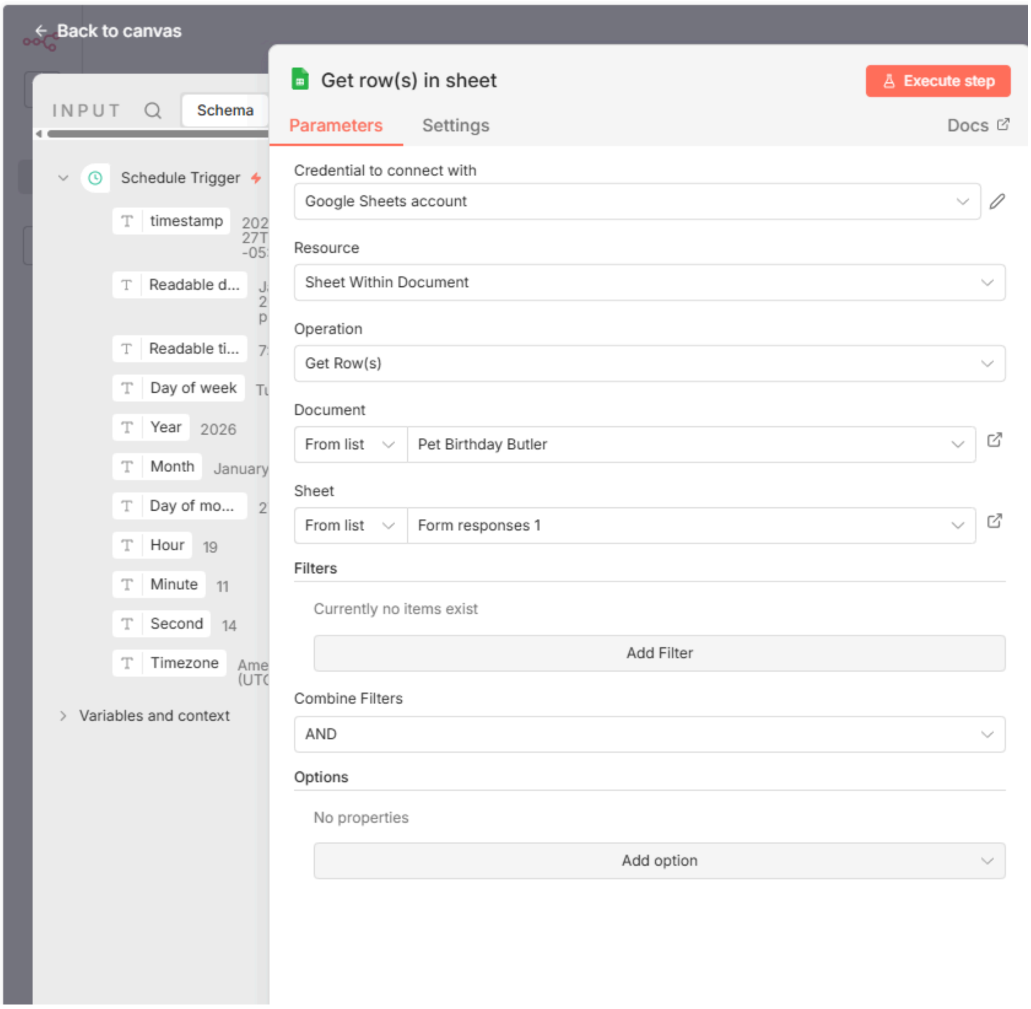
Trigger at Hour: 8am

Trigger at Minute: 0

2. Get row(s) in sheet (Google Sheets)

- **Node Type**: Google Sheets (Read operation)
- **Configuration**:
  - Document: "Pet Birthday Butler" spreadsheet
  - Sheet: "Form responses 1"
  - Operation: Read all rows
- **Purpose**: Fetches all pet records from the Google Sheet

- **Data Retrieved**:
  - Owner Name
  - Owner Email
  - Pet Name
  - Pet Species
  - Pet Birthday (DD/MM/YYYY format)
  - Timestamp
  - Email address



Back to canvas

INPUT Schema

Schedule Trigger
- timestamp 202 27T -05
- Readable d... J 2 p
- Readable ti... 7
- Day of week Tu
- Year 2026
- Month January
- Day of mo... 2
- Hour 19
- Minute 11
- Second 14
- Timezone Ame (UTC

Variables and context

Get row(s) in sheet — Execute step

Parameters | Settings | Docs

Credential to connect with: Google Sheets account

Resource: Sheet Within Document

Operation: Get Row(s)

Document: From list — Pet Birthday Butler

Sheet: From list — Form responses 1

Filters

Currently no items exist

Add Filter

Combine Filters: AND

Options

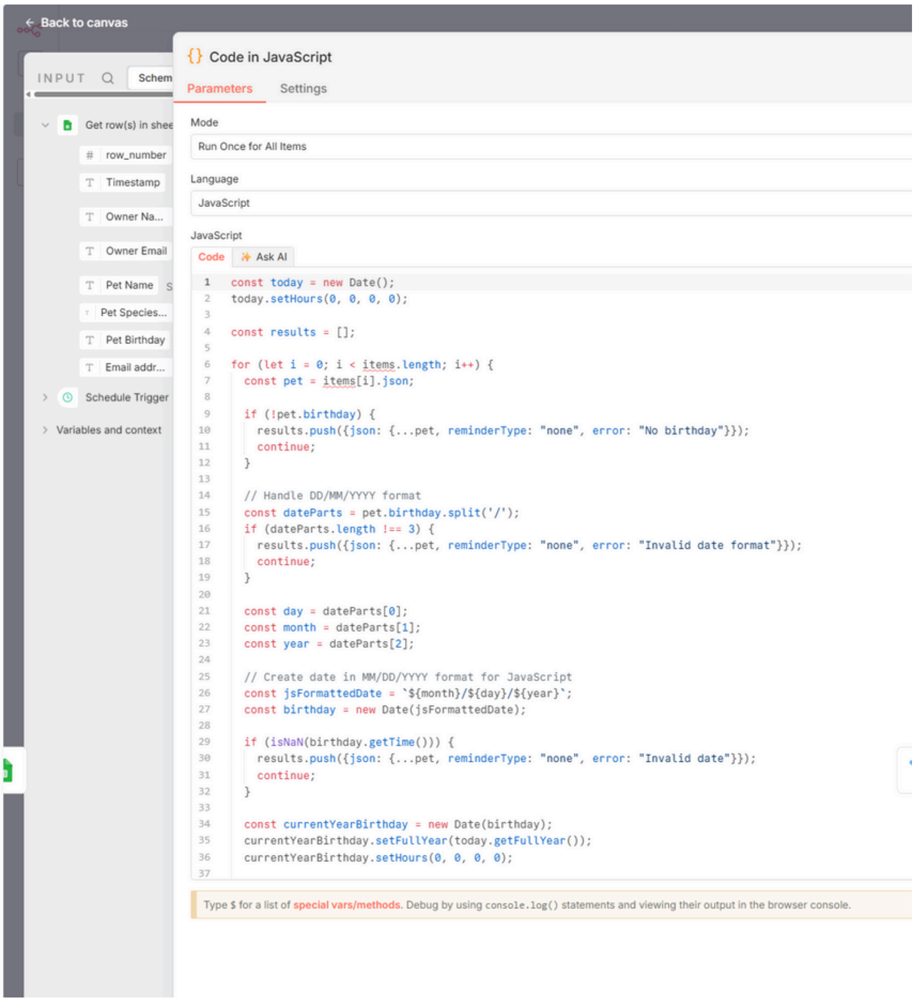
No properties

Add option

3. Code in JavaScript (Date Processing)

- **Node Type**: Code (JavaScript)
- **Mode**: Run once for all items
- **Purpose**: Calculates days until each pet's birthday and determines if a reminder should be sent
- **Logic**:
  1. Parses birthday from DD/MM/YYYY format
  2. Converts to JavaScript-compatible MM/DD/YYYY format
  3. Calculates the birthday for the current year
  4. Computes days until birthday
  5. Assigns reminder type:
     - "today" - if birthday is today (0 days)

        - "7_days_before" - if birthday is in 7 days
        - "none" - for all other cases
    6. Handles errors for invalid dates
- **Output**: Original pet data plus:
    - daysUntilBirthday: Number of days until birthday
    - reminderType: Type of reminder to send
    - currentYearBirthday: Birthday date for current year
    - error: Error message if date parsing failed



Mode
Run Once for All Items

Language
JavaScript

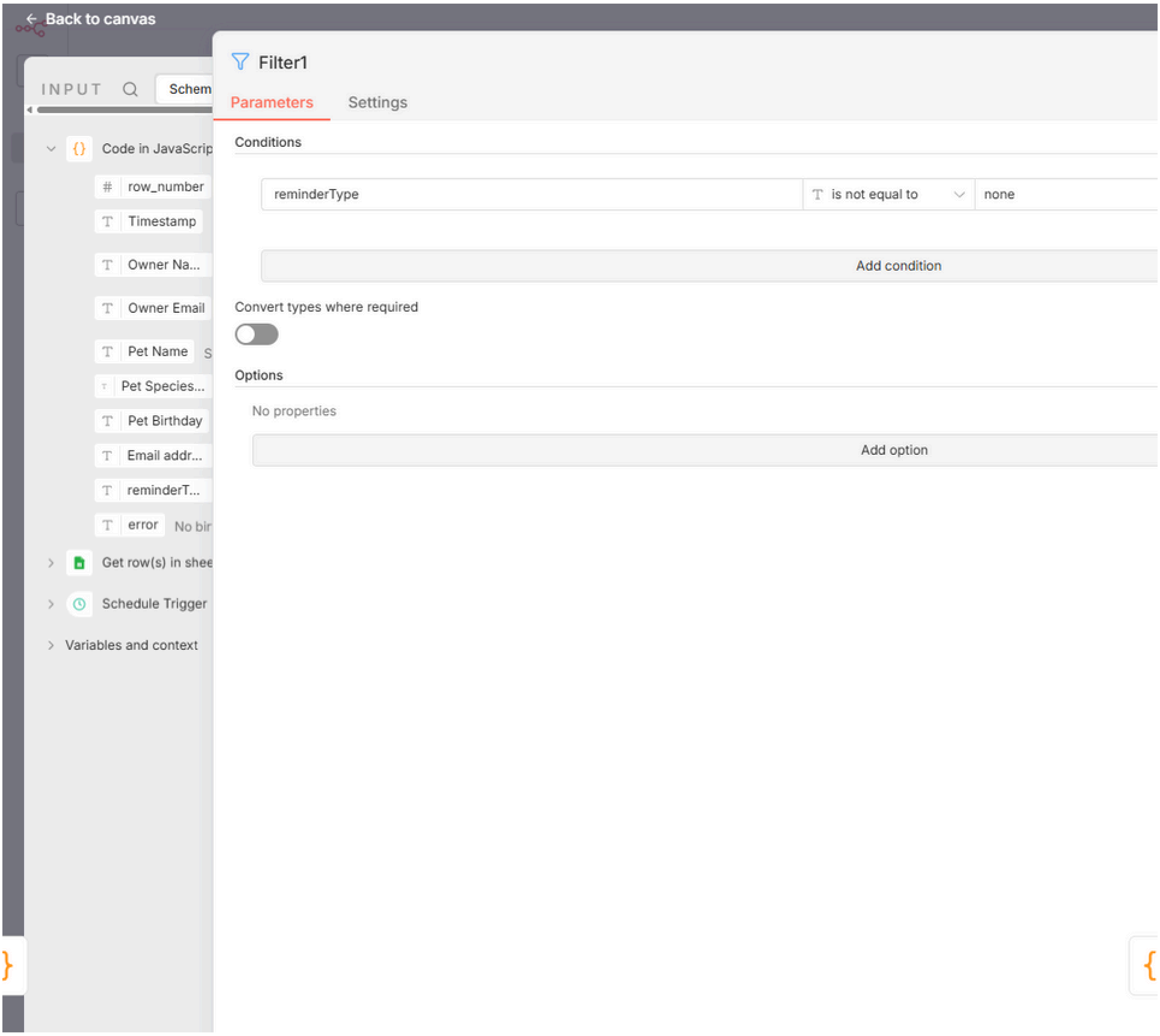
JavaScript

```
const today = new Date();
today.setHours(0, 0, 0, 0);

const results = [];

for (let i = 0; i < items.length; i++) {
  const pet = items[i].json;

  if (!pet.birthday) {
    results.push({json: {...pet, reminderType: "none", error: "No birthday"}});
    continue;
  }

  // Handle DD/MM/YYYY format
  const dateParts = pet.birthday.split('/');
  if (dateParts.length !== 3) {
    results.push({json: {...pet, reminderType: "none", error: "Invalid date format"}});
    continue;
  }

  const day = dateParts[0];
  const month = dateParts[1];
  const year = dateParts[2];

  // Create date in MM/DD/YYYY format for JavaScript
  const jsFormattedDate = `${month}/${day}/${year}`;
  const birthday = new Date(jsFormattedDate);

  if (isNaN(birthday.getTime())) {
    results.push({json: {...pet, reminderType: "none", error: "Invalid date"}});
    continue;
  }

  const currentYearBirthday = new Date(birthday);
  currentYearBirthday.setFullYear(today.getFullYear());
  currentYearBirthday.setHours(0, 0, 0, 0);

```

Type $ for a list of special vars/methods. Debug by using console.log() statements and viewing their output in the browser console.

4. Filter1 (Filter Node)

- **Node Type**: Filter
- **Configuration**:
    - Condition: reminderType ≠ "none"
    - Case sensitive: Yes
    - Type validation: Strict
- **Purpose**: Only passes through pets that need a reminder today
- **Result**: Filters out all pets except those with birthdays today or in 7 days



Filter1

Conditions

reminderType | is not equal to | none

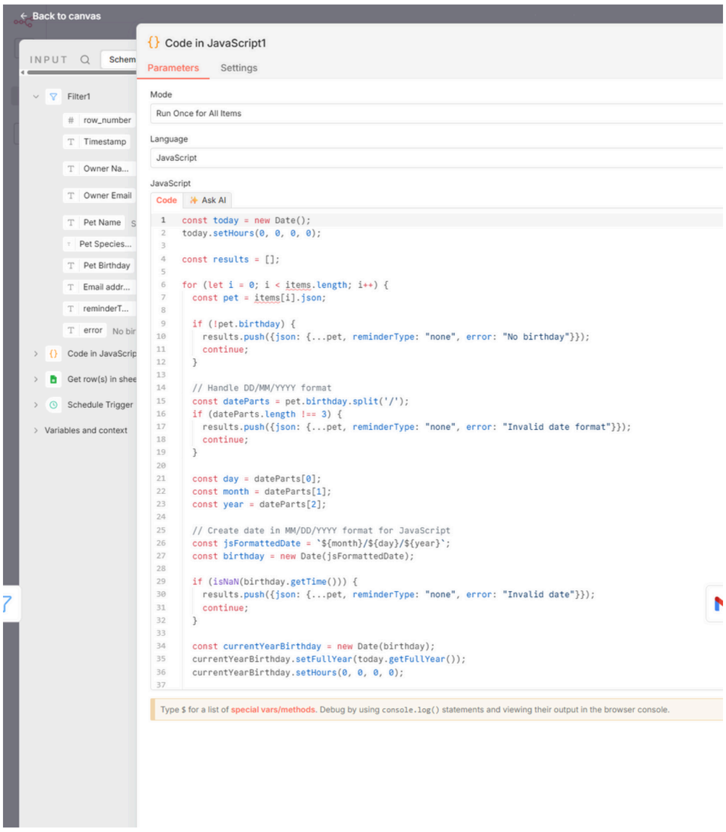
Convert types where required

Options

No properties

5. Code in JavaScript1 (Duplicate Processing)

- **Node Type**: Code (JavaScript)
- **Note**: This appears to be a duplicate of node #3
- **Purpose**: Redundant processing (could be removed in optimization)
- **Output**: Same as node #3



Mode: Run Once for All Items

Language: JavaScript

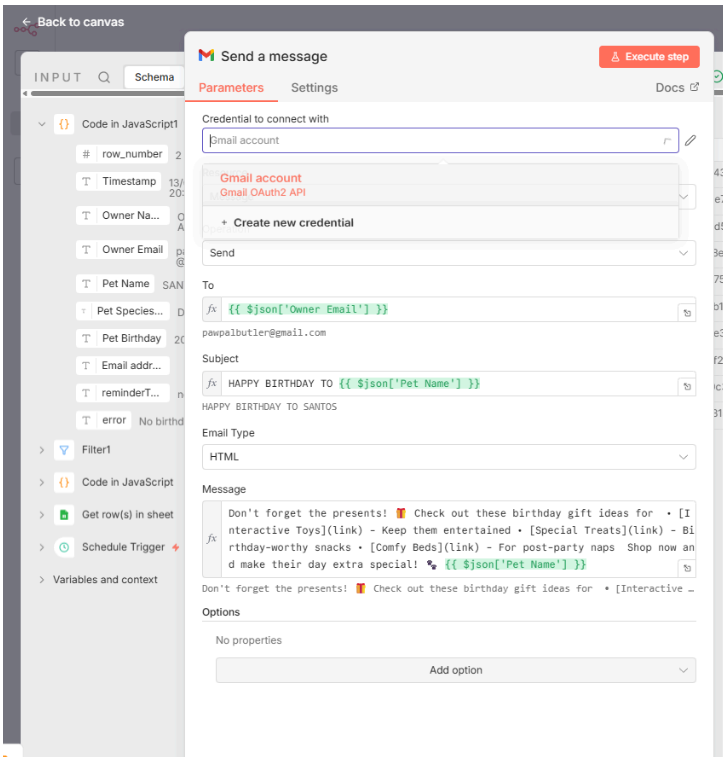
JavaScript

```javascript
const today = new Date();
today.setHours(0, 0, 0, 0);

const results = [];

for (let i = 0; i < items.length; i++) {
  const pet = items[i].json;

  if (!pet.birthday) {
    results.push({json: {...pet, reminderType: "none", error: "No birthday"}});
    continue;
  }

  // Handle DD/MM/YYYY format
  const dateParts = pet.birthday.split('/');
  if (dateParts.length !== 3) {
    results.push({json: {...pet, reminderType: "none", error: "Invalid date format"}});
    continue;
  }

  const day = dateParts[0];
  const month = dateParts[1];
  const year = dateParts[2];

  // Create date in MM/DD/YYYY format for JavaScript
  const jsFormattedDate = `${month}/${day}/${year}`;
  const birthday = new Date(jsFormattedDate);

  if (isNaN(birthday.getTime())) {
    results.push({json: {...pet, reminderType: "none", error: "Invalid date"}});
    continue;
  }

  const currentYearBirthday = new Date(birthday);
  currentYearBirthday.setFullYear(today.getFullYear());
  currentYearBirthday.setHours(0, 0, 0, 0);

```

Type $ for a list of special vars/methods. Debug by using `console.log()` statements and viewing their output in the browser console.

6. Send a message (Gmail)

- **Node Type**: Gmail (Send operation)
- **Configuration**:
  - **To**: {{ $json['Owner Email'] }}
  - **Subject**: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO {{ $json['Pet Name'] }}
  - **Email Type**: HTML
  - **Message**: Birthday greeting with gift suggestions and shopping links
- **Purpose**: Sends personalized birthday email to pet owner
- **Email Content**:
  - Birthday wishes
  - Gift ideas (Interactive Toys, Special Treats, Comfy Beds)
  - Shopping links
  - Pet name personalization



Send a message

Credential to connect with: Gmail account

Gmail account
Gmail OAuth2 API

Send

To

```
{{ $json['Owner Email'] }}
```

pawpalbutler@gmail.com

Subject

```
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO {{ $json['Pet Name'] }}
```

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SANTOS

Email Type: HTML

Message

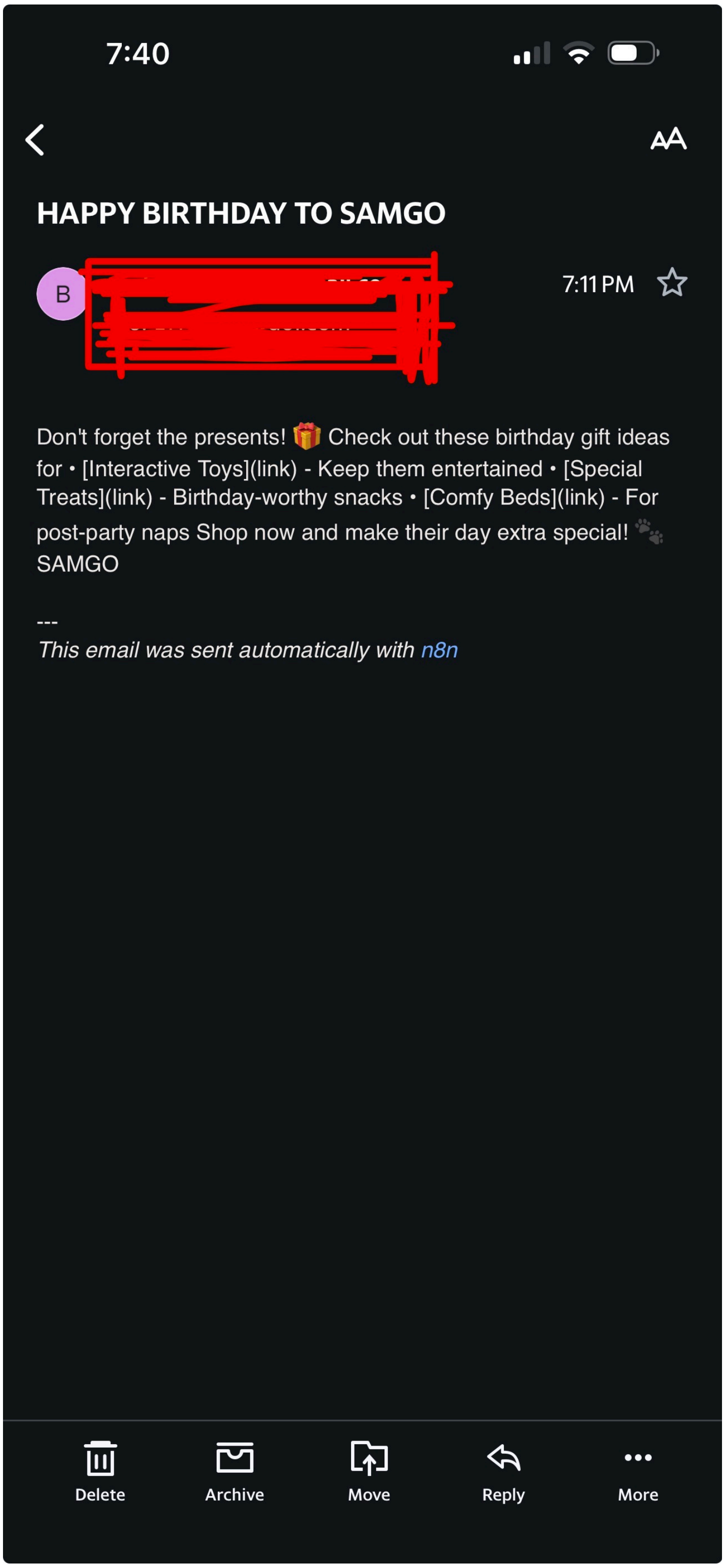
```
Don't forget the presents! 🎁 Check out these birthday gift ideas for  • [I
nteractive Toys](link) - Keep them entertained • [Special Treats](link) - Bi
rthday-worthy snacks • [Comfy Beds](link) - For post-party naps  Shop now an
d make their day extra special! 🐾 {{ $json['Pet Name'] }}
```

Don't forget the presents! 🎁 Check out these birthday gift ideas for • [Interactive …

Options

No properties

Here is a screenshot of the test email used. The automated message was received successfully.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SAMGO

B [redacted] 7:11 PM

Don't forget the presents! 🎁 Check out these birthday gift ideas for • [Interactive Toys](link) - Keep them entertained • [Special Treats](link) - Birthday-worthy snacks • [Comfy Beds](link) - For post-party naps Shop now and make their day extra special! 🐾 SAMGO

This email was sent automatically with n8n