***Sunday, 1 January:***

You arrive at the Appropriate Apartments complex and knock on the door of Apartment 346, which overlooks Inquiry Street.

An old lady answers the door and introduces herself as Mrs Register.

“I’m so glad you’re here,” she says. “My cat, Tiddles, has been missing for 2 days. Please find him!”

You begin your search of the apartment building and end up in the basement, where you hear pitiful meows coming from the cage where the garbage bins are stored.

You can see Tiddles inside – but the cage door has a combination lock.

Next to the lock is the following set of instructions:

*To open the cage, read the following email and identify the THREE formal words.*

*Once you have all 3 words, place them in alphabetical order and count the number of letters in each. This 3-digit number is the combination to the lock.*

*For example, if you think ‘know’, ‘Hello’, and ‘please’ are too formal, placing these words in alphabetical order and counting the letters would give you 5-4-6.*

Hello John,

This is to inform you that the garbage bins will now be collected every Wednesday at 15:00.

All the residents already know about the new schedule because they were provided with details in the monthly newsletter.

Could you please kindly add this info to the welcome pack for new residents.

Thank you,

Anna

Once you have your 3-digit number, report it to the chief of police. You’ll get details of the next stage of your investigation if you’re right.

Good luck!