

As we get ready for our AGM on **Tuesday 29th September**, when we'll be electing a new committee, we'd love you to take a moment to read the **FOB Voices** the exiting committee wrote at the end of last year to share an idea of what it is like to hold a FOB committee role.

Could this be something **you could get involved in?** You might have skills, ideas or enthusiasm that could make a real difference. Have a read, see what each role involves and ask yourself: **"Could I do this?"** You might be surprised by the answer!

★ **FOB 2026/27 - Secretary... Could this be you?** ★

👋 Hey I'm Emma Boardman and I was the Secretary for FOB. I volunteered for a couple of reasons... Firstly, my name's Emma... and if you were around last year, you might have noticed there's a bit of a theme going on 😊
Secondly, clearly a full-time job, being a parent governor, and having a 5-year-old just wasn't quite enough to keep me busy at the time... 😊
And honestly? I chose Secretary because it sounded like the role with the fewest jobs attached to it... and maybe also because... there wasn't anyone else 😊
Finally, but I would say **MOST importantly** - what is infant school without the fun stuff? A visit from 🎅 Father Christmas, the summer fair 🌈, the discos with DJ Rizzo 🎵, looking after the class hamsters in year 2 🐹?!?! The memories our kiddos talk about long after they've forgotten what they had for lunch.



Full transparency: I went into it with hesitation - just like I did volunteering for my first disco - so I completely get it! BUT... I genuinely love volunteering for FOB. The kiddos are awesome at the discos, perfectly polite, respectful, happy. All the volunteers I have met are genuine with good vibes. The events are fun. And there's something really rewarding about seeing the children having the best time because a few parents gave up a little bit of their time.

It's not huge - I take notes in meetings to **write minutes** and write the **newsletter each week**... and it's safe to say me and ChatGPT are now like this 🙌 But mostly, it's just a really nice way to feel part of the school and give a little something back without it taking over your life.

So if you're sitting there thinking, *"Maybe I could help..."* you absolutely can. Rope your *school-gate parent pal* in and make a team of it! It doesn't have to be a solo mission. 👧👦 And trust me, it's nowhere near as scary as it sounds ❤️

★ **FOB 2026/27 - Vice Chair ... Could this be you?** ★

Meet our other Emma B... My name is Emma Burnham. I am a part-time working mum of three boys, all have been through Bawnmore and two of them through Cygnets also. I was doing the school run for 9 solid years here but that has now finished. It took 3 years of being a Bawnmore mum before I got involved properly with FOB. Previously to that, I helped out at couple of events.

How It Started... I think the reason why I started to become more involved was because I could see the real need for a committed member. Events simply would not have happened without 'behind the scenes' work, so I would shop for bits, create a form, basically fill gaps, until I took on a formal position of vice treasurer, secretary and then vice chair.



What does the Vice Chair get up to? I worked alongside our chair Emma Grey, our secretary Emma Boardman and our treasurer Clare Cox. We liaise via playground chats, WhatsApp and meetings. We typically organise a disco and a fayre each term. Both of which are very popular events and make valuable funds for the children. We also run Mother's and Father's Day shops. This allows for the children to come and choose a gift without their adult's influence! We organise lots of other things too, we've had some fun days, these are Saturday events for the whole family to attend, open to the community complete with performances. We have had a wreath making event. I seem to have been a regular on the facepaint stand at discos and fayres! I also love shopping around for bargains and love a bulk buy, it feels so good when

we can maximise the profits that can then be put to good use!

The best bits... I suppose it has made me feel proud of the example it has set to my boys. They have all helped with various jobs over the years, having fun with other FOB children along the way! I've naturally had so much fun and satisfaction from being a FOB member! Volunteering is a great way of giving back, it feels good and having worked with such lovely people over the years, it has not felt like a chore! As a team, we have managed to achieve an awful lot, not just monetary donations for the school but events and activities that have shaped our children's experience and memories of Bawnmore. I will truly miss it all!

★ FOB 2026/27 - Chair ... Could this be you? ★

👋 Meet Emma G...

Hello. **I'm Emma.** I am a working mother of 2 boys and the chair of FOB. Dylan is in year 2 and Finley will be starting reception in September. Finley already knows his way around the school (especially our storage container!) having helped me set up a number of events over the years. The youngest FOB member!

👤 Why Did I Want To Become Chair?

To be honest I didn't really. It was a combination of a long silence and a promise I made to Dylan. For 2 years I volunteered at FOB events because **I wanted to support the school** but having a committee role was something I hadn't really planned on. **I didn't want FOB to fold so I stepped up**, and I'm just trying to do my best working alongside a wonderful group of people. If you would like to pick up the role next year then please come to FOB Annual General Meeting in September!



💖 Why It's Been Worth It ...

I love the fact that the purpose of FOB is not solely about fundraising, it is about **creating experiences** and moments that the kids can remember. Whether it is getting a book from Santa, visiting the mother's or father's day shop to carefully select their gift or busting out all the moves at the disco. I feel **proud that we can support the school** in their requests to enhance the school experience for our children. Whether it's a new rug, hamsters or additional technology resources.

👤 What Does the Chair Actually Do?

I work closely with all FOB members thinking about **what events** we want to organise over the year and how we best **utilise our meetings to plan** these events. We **liaise with school on how funds are spent**. I set up any **forms/ volunteer sheets** and coordinate on **newsletter topics**. We've also been busy modernising a few processes this year, including SumUp and Vinted. We hope they've made life a little easier 😊 - **let us know!** I've also spent time **building relationships with local businesses and asking for support** (with mixed success! 😊), as well as **setting up events** and **running stalls**.

🌟 One Last Thing ...

In order for FOB to survive it runs on volunteers. Looking at the events we have run so far this year I am conscious many of our helpers were year 2 parents who left us in July. Talking to parents from other schools and hearing how sad they were for their kid that their school hadn't managed to organise a disco or that the Mother's/Father's Day shop we run is such a lovely idea they wish their school did it. I have a great sense of pride but know it is only achievable because of our volunteers. So I just wanted to say, please think about if there is anything you can do to help FOB deliver any of the events! **Pop along to our next meeting** or **sign up on the volunteer** sheet. We have now lost Emma (Vice Chair) and Emma (Secretary) so the committee needs new members in September. **Being called Emma isn't essential** (and probably preferable to avoid confusion!)

👋 Meet Claire ... 💰 The Money Master of Friends of Bawnmore

Hi, I'm Claire! I work full time and have two boisterous boys. My eldest loved his time at Bawnmore and is now in Year 3 at BJS, while my youngest, Ethan, joined Cygnets and is about to finish Reception year 🎓 😊

So... what does the Treasurer actually do? If FOB was a football team, Emma (Chair) would be the captain, Emma (Vice Chair) the vice-captain, Emma (Secretary) the coach and match reporter... and I'd be the **goalkeeper!** ⚽ 📅 I'm responsible for looking after every penny FOB raises - making sure it's recorded, kept safe, and spent wisely, so everyone knows exactly where the money goes.

🌟 How It All Started

I'd been meaning to get involved in FOB for a while, but like many parents, **life was IS busy** ... work, kids, and **EVERYTHING** in between. When my youngest was due to start Reception, I heard the committee was at risk of folding due to a lack of volunteers. That really made me pause.

My eldest had already benefited so much from FOB - discos, fayres, fun days and all the little experiences that make school life more memorable. **I wanted my youngest to have the same opportunities.**

As someone who works in finance, putting my name forward for the Treasurer role felt like a natural fit. Numbers, budgets and spreadsheets are very much in my comfort zone (*some might say I actually enjoy them!*). But it wasn't just about the figures. I also wanted to **show my children the importance of giving back, volunteering and being part of your community.**

Nearly a year on, I'm **incredibly proud** of what the committee has achieved together. Raising funds, organised events, supporting the school and creating lasting memories for the children.

Of course, there is one person who occasionally reminds me that I came to this revelation a little too late... My eldest son, every time I talk about FOB.. 😊 *"Why didn't you join when I was at Bawnmore?"*

💡 **My Reflection:** Volunteering isn't always about having lots of spare time!! Often it's about **making a small commitment that can make a big difference** to a school, its children and the wider community. ❤️

🏆 Key Duties of a Treasurer

💰 Counting the Cash

After fundraising events such as family fun days, discos, penny war, the Treasurer:
Counts & records the money spent & raised
Ensures the money is safely banked

👤 Following Every Penny

I keep track of all income and spending so we always know where the money has gone.

From cake sales to raffle prizes - and whether we can stretch to both a bouncy castle **AND** an ice cream van 🍦 - it all comes back to the numbers. I work with the school office for any payments made to the wrong account during the school year.

📄 Annual Charity Commission Submission (The Not-Quite-So-Exciting Bit)

Once a year, I prepare the financial return for the Charity Commission - checking figures, updating records, and making sure everything is accurate and compliant. It's the less glamorous side compared to events, but it keeps everything running properly behind the scenes. In simple terms, it's like the charity's end-of-year school report - but with fewer stickers and a lot more spreadsheets.

Treasurer's superpower: Turning a year's worth of receipts, raffle tickets and fundraising events into a tidy report that says, *"Yes, we know where every penny went!"* 📊 💰

