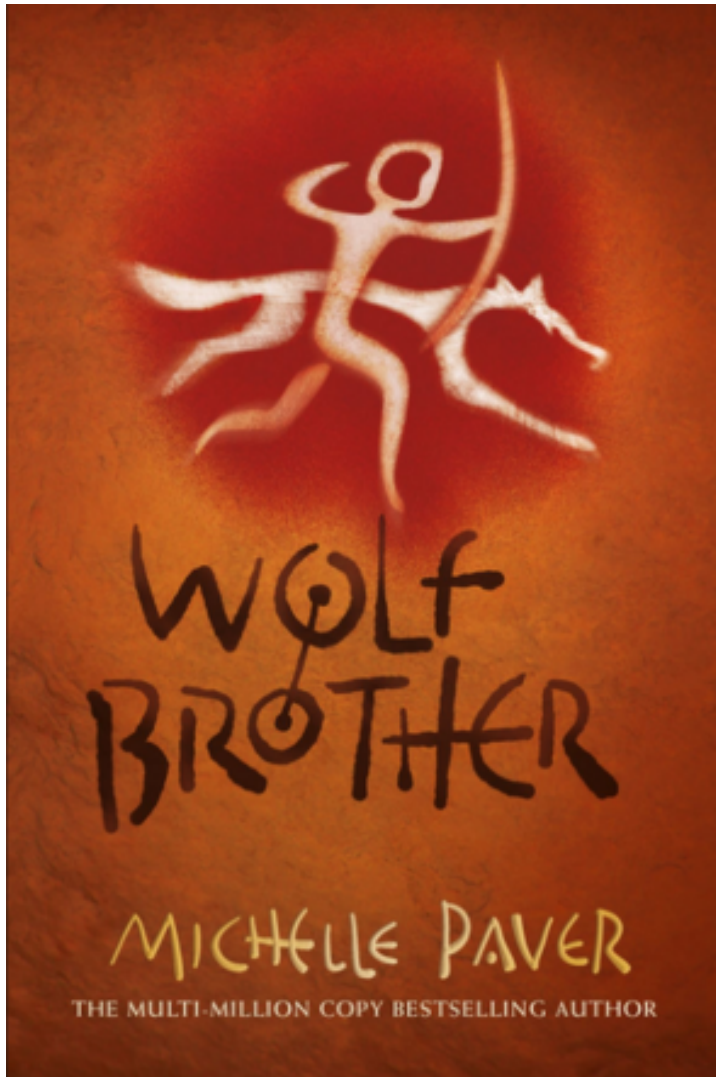


NEWSLETTER

SETTLEBECK READS



Issue 5 | 17/06/2026



DEAL Book Review

If you enjoy adventure, survival stories, and unforgettable friendships, *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver is a must-read. Set 6,000 years ago in a world of forests, clans, and ancient spirits, the story follows Torak, a young boy who is left alone after his father is killed by a demon-possessed bear.

Determined to save his world from this terrifying threat, Torak embarks on a dangerous journey with an unlikely companion – an orphaned wolf cub.

What makes this book stand out is the unique bond between Torak and Wolf. Their friendship is heartwarming, and Paver's vivid descriptions bring the prehistoric world to life. The story is packed with action, suspense, and moments of real emotion, making it difficult to put down.

Wolf Brother is the first book in the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series and is perfect for readers who enjoy adventure, nature, and fantasy. With memorable characters, exciting challenges, and a rich historical setting, it is easy to see why this novel has become a favourite with young readers

We are delighted to introduce *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver as part of the Year 7 DEAL (Drop Everything and Listen) Reading Programme. What makes this choice particularly special is that it was selected by our students and championed by the Student Council. At Settlebeck, we place great value on listening to student voice, and we are always keen to act on the feedback and ideas our students share. The introduction of *Wolf Brother* is a fantastic example of students helping to shape their own reading experiences.

Even more excitingly, our work with *Wolf Brother* will extend beyond the classroom. We will be partnering with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, which has developed a project inspired by the novel. The programme encourages young people to rediscover their deep-rooted connection to nature by stepping back into the world of Stone Age Europe, learning a variety of practical bushcraft skills along the way. As part of this partnership, a group of our students will take part in a half-day outdoor experience, bringing the themes of the book to life through hands-on learning and adventure.

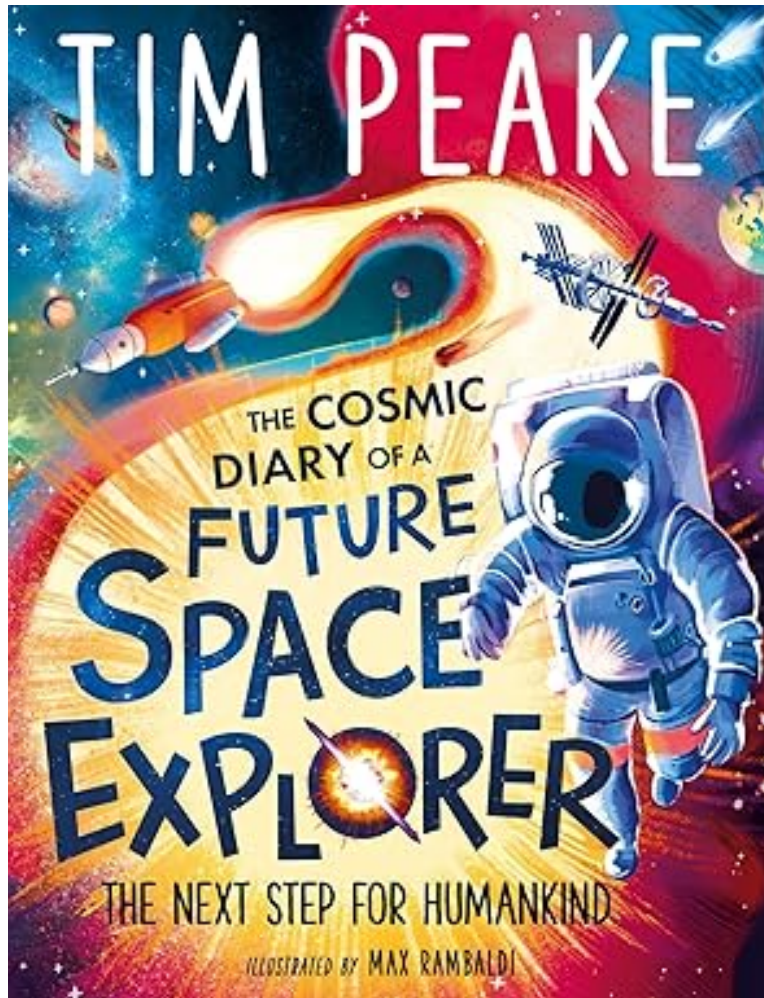
We look forward to seeing our Year 7 students immerse themselves in Torak and Wolf's remarkable journey and to hearing their thoughts as they explore this exciting new addition to our reading programme.

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DEAL Book Review

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to blast off into space, live on the Moon, or even help build a colony on Mars? In *The Cosmic Diary of a Future Space Explorer*, astronaut Tim Peake takes readers on an exciting journey through the past, present and future of space exploration. Along the way, you'll discover fascinating facts about space travel, learn what life is really like for astronauts, and explore the incredible possibilities that await future generations. Packed with eye-opening facts, brilliant illustrations and Tim Peake's own experiences as a real-life astronaut, this is the perfect read for anyone who is curious about science, technology and the universe beyond our planet. Whether you dream of becoming an astronaut or simply love learning about space, this inspiring book will leave you looking up at the night sky with a sense of wonder.

Recommended for: Curious minds, aspiring astronauts and anyone who enjoys discovering the wonders of our universe.

We are excited to announce that *The Cosmic Diary of a Future Space Explorer* by Tim Peake has been selected by our current Year 7 students as part of their Year 8 DEAL (Drop Everything and Listen) reading programme.

Thanks to generous funding from the Ogden Trust, we were able to purchase a set of DEAL books with a physics theme. Students were presented with a range of exciting titles and asked to vote for the book they would most like to read next year. The overwhelming favourite was Tim Peake's fascinating journey through the world of space exploration, astronaut life and the future of humankind in space.

This project provided a wonderful opportunity for students to help shape their own reading experiences, and we are delighted to see such excitement for a book that combines literacy with science and discovery.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Ogden Trust for making this opportunity possible. Their support has allowed us to broaden our reading offer while promoting a love of physics, STEM and the wonders of the universe.

We look forward to seeing our future Year 8 students embark on this inspiring space adventure and discover where their curiosity might take them next.