

Join the budding new IT crowd

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COMPUTER whizz-kids can now brush up on their skills at after-school IT clubs.

Boffin Keith Evans has started running ComputerXplorers classes at schools and nurseries in Bracknell for children aged between three and 13 years.

Keith, 49, decided to set up the classes because his job in IT and telecommunications involved travelling all over the world and kept him away from his young family.

He said: "I found myself working all over the country and the world and abroad, being away from my family, so I decided I should do something which allowed me to spend more time with them.

"I really enjoy doing

'Computers are now such a fundamental part of life that it's vital for children to become familiar with the technology.'

ComputerXplorers because it's combining my IT knowledge with my experience with working with children.

"The kids really get into it too - they think it's great."

Keith runs one of the first UK franchises of the US company, and has set up after school clubs at Wildridings Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bullbrook and Squirrel's Day Nursery in Crowthorne.

ComputerXplorers is now teaching more than 150 kids computer skills including using digital cameras and video software and looking at microscope images on screen.

And they sometimes get to build and control their own robots.

Keith employs two Criminal Records Bureau-checked instructors to run the classes, which are tailored to suit different age groups.

He has more than 27 years' experience in IT, having worked in sales and marketing with companies like Nortel, Marconi and Motorola, and also volunteered at Beaver Scout groups and Sunday Schools in Bracknell.

Keith, who lives in Gough's Lane, Warfield, with his wife Denise and three children Alex, Amy and Kieran, said: "Computers are now such a fun-



Whizz-kids: Keith with some of his students.
Pic no 0725347b

damental part of life that it's vital for children to become familiar with the technology.

"We strive to facilitate this in a fun way that also ties in with what they're learning in school.

"I'm really enjoying running the business and it's great to be able to have such a positive impact on the community.

"We've started working in local schools and one nursery, and I'm hop-

ing to take on more teachers soon."

ComputerXplorers has been running in the USA for more than 20 years and came to the UK last year.

Visit www.eberks.computerexplorers.co.uk for more information.