The Burndown Chart

Since a sprint has a finite lifespan, it is essential to track the progress.
The burndown chart is a simple and powerful way to represent the team's progress visually.

Time is represented on the horizontal X-axis, and the scope on the vertical, Y-axis. The ideal burndown is linear; however, that almost never happens in reality.

In real life, the remaining work may suddenly change as tasks get added or removed. Also, sometimes the team's original estimates may be wrong, and the amount of required work proves to be way more or considerably less. In such cases, the chart will show sudden spikes or dips.

The burndown chart is not a means to "keep an eye" on team members, since the assumption is that the team can handle the work they committed to.

Tracking the team's progress should serve transparency, and its primary goal is to identify possible blockers, unbalanced workload or other issues that might affect the team's productivity.

Burndown charts are used to reflect the sprint's progress, and to track whether the scope can be achieved within the given timeframe.