Focus Cards for class and group work in reading.

Second Level Reading Benchmarks

Focus Cards

These cards are based on Curriculum for Excellence Benchmarks.

The purpose for these is to provide a means of creating a focal point for reading lessons which includes our pupils in understanding the reason behind the lesson.

Teachers may ask PSAs to work with groups using the focus cards which correlate to the learning intentions outlined in their plans. This is one way of creating more understanding of what Curriculum for Excellence is about and the learning and teaching progression.

These cards could be printed on card and placed in a ring binder so that they can be displayed for pupils to see.

Our focus for today is to:

- ✓ Select texts for enjoyment.
  OR
- ✓ Find information for a specific purpose.
- ✓ Explain preferences for particular texts, authors or sources with supporting detail.

Our focus for today is to:

✓ Read with fluency, understanding and expression using appropriate pace and tone.
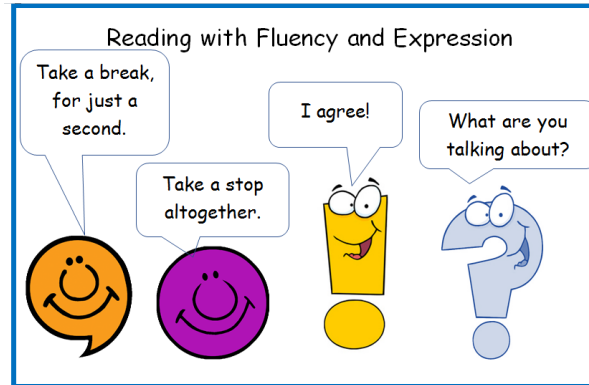
I pay attention to **punctuation**!

I read the words **correctly**.

I read the words at the correct **rate**: not too slowly not too fast.

I read with **expression**. I vary my voice and don't sound like a robot.

Our focus for today is to:

✓ Use knowledge of context clues, punctuation, grammar and layout to read unfamiliar texts with understanding.

Reading with Fluency and Expression

Take a break, for just a second.

Take a stop altogether.

I agree!

What are you talking about?

Our focus for today is to:

✓   Apply a range of reading skills and strategies to read and understand texts, for example, skimming, scanning, predicting, clarifying and/or summarising.

1. Predicting
2. Making connections
3. Visualising
4. Asking probing questions
5. Monitoring
6. Summarising

Our focus for today is to:

- ✓ Skim texts to identify purpose and main ideas.
- ✓ Scan texts to find key information.

Our focus for today is to:

✓ Find, selects and sorts relevant information from a range of sources.

✓ Make and organises notes using own words, for the most part.

✓ Use notes to create new texts that show understanding of the topic or issue.

Our focus for today is to:

✓   Identify the purpose of a text with suitable explanation.

✓   Identify the main ideas of a text with appropriate detail.

Our focus for today is to:

✓ Make relevant comments about features of language, for example, vocabulary, sentence structure and punctuation.

Our focus for today is to:

- ✓ Respond to a range of questions, including literal, inferential and evaluative questions, to demonstrate understanding of texts.
- ✓ Create different types of questions to show understanding of texts.

Our focus for today is to:

- ✓ Distinguish between fact and opinion with appropriate explanation.
- ✓ Identify which sources are most useful/reliable.

Our focus for today is to:

✓   Recognise techniques used to influence the reader, for example, word choice, emotive language, rhetorical questions and/or repetition.

Our focus for today is to:

- ✓ Make relevant comments about structure, characterisation and/or setting with reference to the text.
- ✓ Relate the writer's theme to own and/or others' experiences.

Our focus for today is to:

✓ Make relevant comments about aspects of the writer's style, use of language and other features appropriate to genre, with reference to the text

Our focus for today is to:

- ✓ Select texts regularly for enjoyment and interest or relevant sources to inform thinking.
- ✓ Give a personal response to texts with appropriate justification.
- ✓ Explain how well a text or source meets needs and expectations with appropriate justification.

Our focus for today is to: