How a Bank Card works?

In France, we use chip card unlike USA where the most popular card is magnetic card, with swiping. Those cards in France, have a chip with many information like account number, bank name, expiration date, credit card limit and a crypted version of your PIN. If everything seems alright (expiration date, credit card limit and the pin that you enter), your card will create a unique transaction number. This number, with the amount of the transaction and the account number will go to the shop's bank, which will transfer to your bank (asking Visa or Mastercard) and will authorize or not the transaction depending on your account balance. And this authorization will go back to the payment terminal and show you "Accepted Payment" if it's the case. And the transaction will be applied at the end of the day.

For contactless payment, it's working with NFC protocol, and it shares your bank card information, as if you pay on an internet website.

